

Production brings war to light

By Jeff Randall
Senior Reporter

Although for most college students the Vietnam War is only a vague memory, if even that, its impact on American society continues today.



"The Speed of Darkness," the latest production by Theatrx, the UNL theatre and dance department's student-run performance and production association, examines this subject on a personal level. The play,

written by Steve Tesich and directed by adjunct faculty member Mark Klemetsrud, opens tonight at the Johnny Carson Theater.

"The Speed of Darkness" tells the story of Joe (played by graduate stu-

dent Patrick Tuttle), a Vietnam veteran who has built up a successful life back home as a construction contractor.

Things seem to be going well for Joe until he runs into Lou (played by graduate student Steven Shields), a war buddy now living on the street. Through a series of revelations, Lou forces Joe to re-examine his success and his hidden emotions.

The play also features performances by Heather Currie, Holly Vierk and Reggie Barnes.

Tuttle says his character, Joe, is "a man who is haunted by his past."

"Whatever that past was, he has to find some way to get through it."

Tuttle said the play contains a number of surprises.

"There are some humorous points, but the mood is almost like a mystery, where you don't know everything that is going on, and that gives the play an

edge."

Klemetsrud, who petitioned Theatrx to allow production of the play, said he was drawn to the piece primarily because of its characters.

"I read it about four years ago, and had been looking for a way to get it on stage. It really struck a chord with me, and I'm glad I was able to get it done."

Audience members at the Carson Theater will not be disappointed, Klemetsrud said.

"It will be a fine evening of entertainment. The cast has worked very hard and it shows, and the play has several wonderful moments and a nice humor to it."

Tickets for "The Speed of Darkness" are available at the door only and cost \$3. The show runs through Sunday, with show times at 8 p.m. tonight through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

El Charro sizzles the senses

By Albert Schmid
Food Critic

The corner of 13th and F streets seems a little off the beaten path to be home to one of Lincoln's great restaurants. But it's home to El Charro and some great Mexican food.

El Charro is housed on the site of the former Crain's Cozy Cafe, and before that was the "F" Street Diner. Both eateries specialized in "home-style" cooking.

El Charro is authentic Mexican food from scratch at its best. The building does not look like much, but the food and the service are fantastic.

The menu is extensive and caters to many different appetites. Sizzling fajitas, \$8.95, include a choice of marinated beef, chicken, pork or

shrimp with bell peppers, onions, tomatoes, guacamole and sour cream. The chosen meat comes to the table on a "sizzling" platter.

I enjoyed the No. 13 combination plate for \$5.95. My dinner included a taco, enchilada, chile relleno and my choice of soup or salad. I chose a spicy meatball soup, which was quite good. The amount of food I received was hard to finish but I managed, because all of it was so good I did not want it relegated to the leftovers in my refrigerator.

The menu is well-rounded, including "Cinco Hombres Specialties," which sell for between \$6.95 and \$9.45. The specialties include Arroz Con Pollo for \$6.95; Carnitas for \$8.25; and the Brocheta Combination for \$9.25. All dinners are served with Spanish rice, refried beans, soup or salad and tortillas.

The menu also offers steak dinners, seafood dishes, 15 combination dinners, nine burritos and four enchi-

lada dinners. Prices range from \$3.95 to \$12.95.

El Charro also provides a children's menu, with a choice of a taco, cheese enchilada, a small bean-and-cheese burrito or a hamburger. Each meal is \$2.95.

Appetizers run between \$2.95 and \$5.95 and desserts from \$1 to \$2.95.

Because the menus are the same as those used when the restaurant operated in Albion, alcoholic drinks are listed. But because a church is located across the street from the restaurant, Lincoln's liquor laws forbid its sale on the premises.

El Charro has been open only two weeks and does not yet accept credit cards, although it has plans to. The restaurant is wonderful and highly recommended.

The eatery is open seven days a week, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 11 p.m. on Friday. It also serves breakfast on Saturdays and Sundays.

Chase away the winter blahs with some cozy new releases

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

And now, just in time for the wintertime blues, we present the last two weeks of video releases! Lots of outer space and computer-based stuff from last week, and one romantic comedy for this week. The pick-of-the-week is a sexy thriller from some years ago.

● "Apollo 13" (PG-13) — One of the summer's biggest hits comes home to video, but will probably lose some of its impact on the transfer to the small screen.

"Apollo 13" follows the true story of the harrowing Apollo 13 mission and the three astronauts (Bill Paxton, Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon) who survived the ordeal. It is very compelling and well-directed, courtesy of Ron Howard ("Backdraft" and "Night Shift").

Great performances abound throughout the film, and the special effects are all top-notch.

● "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers" (PG) — The Rangers are on the attack, and they are coming to your home!

These high-flying, sky diving protectors of the innocent now have a real budget for their special effects and a really ugly villain with loads of one-liners.

The kids will love this. Adults probably won't.

● "Congo" (R) — Another Michael Crichton novel ("Jurassic Park," "Disclosure") made into a movie, "Congo" was again a big summer hit.

Featuring an all-star cast including Tim Curry, Dylan Walsh and Ernie Hudson, "Congo" asks the question, "What limits should there be on humanity dealing with nature?"

Like all Crichton novels, computers play a large part in "Congo," and the computer work provides some of the high points of the film. "Congo" is worth finding.

● "Johnny Mnemonic" (PG-13) — Ouch. This William Gibson story adapted for the movie just doesn't cut the mustard.

Keanu Reeves stars as Johnny, a man with a computer-enhanced memory who works as an information courier in the dark, dismal future. His brain has an overload of information that could change the world (naturally), and everybody wants what's inside his head (naturally).

Keanu's acting is so wooden it is surprising toothpicks don't fall out of his nose. The movie is generally worthless, save some cool virtual reality moments.

● "Forget Paris" (PG) — Billy Crystal, who starred in the romantic hit "When Harry Met Sally," stars in another romantic gem "Forget Paris" with Debra Winger.

Crystal and Winger star as a couple who meet in Paris and have a fairy tale romance that ends in marriage, but they then must learn to deal with reality, as well.

Both Winger and Crystal turn in great work, and Crystal's job as a basketball referee is quite funny.

PICK-OF-THE-WEEK — Although William Hurt and Kathleen Turner received great praise for their work in "The Accidental Tourist," their performances were equally as powerful in the suspenseful "Body Heat."

In the middle of a Florida heat wave, lawyer Ned Racine (Hurt) is picked up by the sultry — and married — Matty Walker (Turner), and as a passionate affair ensues, the two plot to kill her husband.

But does it all end there? Nope. That's where the twists and turns start to come in.

All performances are great (Turner received a Golden Globe nomination), and the music is compelling.

Check it out.

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