

# Video rentals lack quality

By Gerry Beltz  
Film Critic

One might think two weeks worth of new releases would have more than one worthwhile film to offer. Sadly, such is not the case for this set. As usual, the pick of the week is of the highest quality.

"Waterworld" (PG-13) — The megabudget summer film comes home to video, which is too bad for the neat-o special effects and scenery.

Kevin Costner plays the balding, half-fish Mariner who gets caught up in a wild chase for Dryland, supposedly the only non-aquatic place left on Earth after it has been covered with water.

Except for Dennis Hopper as the over-the-top baddie, fish sticks show better acting abilities than Costner and the others. Pass

on this one.

"Jade" — Wow! Kinky sex and a murder mystery! Gosh, no one has ever thought of that before!

David Caruso ("Kiss of Death") plays a homicide detective with the emotional range of a meatball sub. He's searching for a vicious killer.

Linda Fiorentino ("The Last Seduction") plays his ex-wife, a woman who just might be a mysterious, high-class hooker named Jade. She makes Madonna look like a nun.

This movie sucks, plain and simple. Plot, acting, script, you name it. Next!

"Desperado" (R) — The sequel to the successful "El Mariachi" again delivers, this time with heartthrob Antonio Banderas in the lead.

The man with a guitar case full of guns 'n' ammo comes around to kill the drug dealer responsible for the death of the woman he loved.

Full of outrageous stunts, bloodshed and gunfights — not to mention a great soundtrack — "Desperado" is the only cream in this week's crop.

"Something To Talk About" — Oh goody. A romantic comedy with the same title as a hit song. Oh happy day.

It is the Attack of the Killer Smiles when Grace (Julia Roberts) finds out her handsome hubby Eddie (Dennis Quaid) is getting some nookie on the side, and each must come to terms with it.

The best part of this film is Kyra Sedgwick as Emma Rae, Grace's sister who puts the cheatin' man in his place. It's an OK rental, but there's better stuff out there.

PICK OF THE WEEK — "Jaws" scared more than one person out of the water, and it is still one of the scariest films of all time.

Now, by popular demand, the film has been released in letterbox format so you don't miss one iota of action, plus there is lots of bonus stuff with it!

Even if you can't find the letterbox edition, the film itself is incredible. Superb direction from Steven Spielberg, an incredible soundtrack from John Williams, and great performances from Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw and Richard Dreyfuss all make for one sharp flick. Check it out.

## Video Releases

# 'Turandot' opens tonight

By Gerry Beltz  
Senior Reporter

In a story of love, riddles and death, Opera Omaha '96 opens tonight with Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot" at 7:30 at Omaha's Orpheum Theatre.

"Turandot" — performed in Italian with English supertitles — is the tale of a beautiful, coldhearted princess with an open challenge to all men of royalty. If any man can answer her three riddles, he wins her hand. If he fails, he is beheaded.

Many heads roll, but when Prince Calaf comes to town, he not only answers her riddles, but poses one of his own, with his head hanging in the balance.

Kate Broekemeier, marketing coordinator at Opera Omaha, said that although the tale of Turandot was a traditional one, the behind-the-scenes work was somewhat different.

"This is a very high-tech production," she said. "This show is using some very elaborate screen projections which make up a lot of the scenery."

"It is visually spectacular." The show finally has come together without too many hitches or problems, she said.

"We had to do some scrambling for some stuff from other companies around the country," she said. "It's just been a little bit hectic getting everything done."

Advance ticket sales have been good, but the premiere performance will be the real sales booster, she said.

"Word of mouth will drive ticket sales for the weekend," she said.

"Once it opens, it is going to blow everybody away."

"Turandot" will have additional performances Friday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

For further information, contact the Opera Omaha office at (402) 346-4398.

## Races

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future.

"Some people think RC race car driving will be one of the most popular sports in the world by the year 2000," Pfenning said. "It's politically correct, and anyone can do it. We're talking about power to the people."

In Lincoln, Tom Zwiebel is known as a top RC competitor. He's raced cars since 1981, and has ranked highly in national competitions like the "Heart of America" contest.

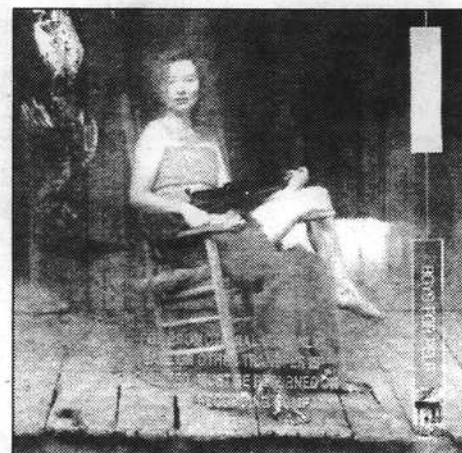
"Motors, gears, batteries and driving skill, those are the four components of RC racing," Zwiebel said. "You've got to have eye-hand coordination and the dollars to be able to do this."

But RC racing is less popular in Lincoln now than it was a few years ago, Zwiebel said.

"All those young kids came out here, but other things started to take over their lives — girls, jobs," he said.

Many of the people who stick with RC racing do so because of their love for full-size race cars, Filbert said.

# Music Reviews



Tori Amos  
"Boys For Pele"  
Atlantic Records  
Grade: C

Letting Tori Amos produce her own album may have been nothing short of musical suicide.

"Boys For Pele" is Tori Amos' third album and falls in the same place for quality. After "Little Earthquakes" and "Under the Pink," fans certainly were not expecting this.

What hurts "Boys For Pele" the most is that Amos' lyrics come across as bad stream-of-consciousness poetry.

For example, from "Muhammad My Friend": "And if I lose my Cracker Jacks at the Tidal wave I got a place/In the Pope's rubber robe."

Or, from "Talula": "Mary M weaving on said/What you want is in the blood Senators/I got Big Bird on the fishing line/With a bit of a shout a bit of a shout/A bit of an angry snout/He's my favorite hooker of the whole bunch/And I know about his only Bride/And how the Russians die on the ice/I got my rape hat on/Honey but I always could accessorize."

Even Lewis Carroll would have a tough time finding his way through Tori's Wonderland.

Musically, though, the album sounds pretty good. Amos, in addition to her familiar piano, plays a harpsichord with some impressive results.

Still, her inability to focus her words hurts "Boys For Pele" immensely.

With songs like "Tear In Your Hand," the listeners could find a personal sense of emotion conveyed to them. With songs like "Past The Mission," a narrative mixed with emotion hits the listener.

But "Boys For Pele" is none of these things. Filled with chaotic words, obscure references and nonsensical gibberish, oftentimes songs would have been better if Amos hadn't been singing at all.

The album does merit a couple of focused songs with catchy tunes like "Blood Roses" and "Putting The Damage On," but the majority of "Boys For Pele" is nothing more than thrown-together words laid over pleasant melodies.

— Cliff Hicks



Various Artists  
"Kids — Original Motion Picture Soundtrack"  
Grade: C+  
NY LLC

Forget the hype surrounding "Natural One," the best stuff on this soundtrack is not Folk Implosion.

I don't care what Warner Bros. is pitching to Lou Barlow right now; the truth of the matter is, compared to their previous efforts, he and John Davis are sorely lacking in the creativity that populated the Chocolate Monk tapes, "Take a Look Inside ..." and "Walk Thru This World With ..."

It's terribly depressing to see this Sebadoh side project, one of his most interesting yet, sink into a pathetic hole of drum tracks, lame effects, and stupid samples.

The organic, indie grooves of "Slap Me" and "Better Than Allright" are gone, along with FI's quirky, Beatle-esque pokes and terse, swervy song-stylings.

The instrumentals are the exception. "Jenny's Theme" is pretty cohesive to their former sound, and though they deviate from past work, "Crash" and "Raise the Bells" are still nice offerings as well.

Plus, with the addition of Bob Fay, the Deluxx Folk Implosion seems to straighten things out a bit with a delightfully angry little punch in the nose, "Daddy Never Understood."

The rest of the album is generally worthwhile, especially the dope beats served up by Mad Fright Night in "Lo-Down."

The new Daniel Johnston track isn't bad, though a little overproduced. He returns to his lo-fi lineage, however, with "Casper the Friendly Ghost" from one of his previous albums.

Slint's "Good Morning Captain," much like the rest of their stuff, has some value if you can stomach the eight minutes of Rodan-like wandering.

In light of his partial fall from intense coolness, Barlow's last contribution, "Spoiled," from Sebadoh's best album, "III," is a little depressing in its genius. Simple, rough and honest, this acoustic little ditty makes you want to weep.

— Matt Kudlacz

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