

Travis Heying/DN

Paul Steinke and Sarah Hyberger run through a dress rehearsal Tuesday night for the opera "A Room With a View". The Opera will be performed Saturday night at 8 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall.

Audience agonizes over opera

By Jeff Randall Theater Critic

Theater

Review

Rumble

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After two and a half hours of opera Thursday night, the one image that stuck out in my mind the most was the

outside walk Kimball Recital Hall.

It was there that I heard one man simplify "A Room With A View" in probably the best possible way: he said "It brings a new meaning to the word 'eternity."

A harsh indictment indeed. But, in this case, it was deserved, "A Room With a View" ultimately fell prey to the most deadly of operatic beasts -

Good opera should contain all of those classic elements that no fan of good music and good theater can re-

little slowly, it doesn't slow down

once the action starts. One fight scene

flows to the next, with a brilliantly

staged fight in a warehouse against

the motorcycle gang as the highlight

sist: passion, death, revenge and lust, just to name a few.

But "A Room With A View" falls flat on the majority of these subjects, instead wallowing in an overwrought musical accompaniment and, given the strength of E.M. Forster's novel (on which the opera is based), a bland libretto.

The players seemed to share this sentiment, holding back the extra push that is the result of truly inspiring material — the extra push that was so evdient in productions such as last year's "Marriage of Figaro." And without the full backing of a cast, even the strongest opera would have a hard Honeychurch, also provided a rare time succeeding.

This is not to say that the opera was ers who surrounded her. without its bright points. Brett Hyberger was especially inspiring as Hyberger, who played Mrs. coln will suffer for it.

In between fights, Tong lets the plot line fill in the edges (though no

No Academy Awards for acting,

one ever mentions his job as a Hong

but the action in "Rumble In The

Bronx" makes it a surefire winner.

Kong cop).

The Facts

Opera: "A Room With a View"

Stage Director: William Shomos

Conductor: Tyler White

Stars: Karen Kness, Kenneth Floyd, Rebecca Kouma Shane

Company: UNL School of Music

Grade: D

Five Words: Not a very good 'view'

spark that seemingly ignited the play-

But two players alone—and minor players at that - cannot make good Mr. Emerson, a brash and realistic entertainment. Unless the School of man who serves as catalyst for most of Music is able to recapture the energy it the positive things that emerged from so effectively utilized in past producthis production. Sarah Amanda tions, the students and opera in Lin-

The Facts

Film: "Rumble In The Bronx"

Stars: Jackie Chan, Anita Mui, Francoise Yip

Director: Stanley Tong

Rating: R (violence, language)

Grade: B+

Five Words: Physical comedy meets martial arts

TGIF

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Also at the Ross, the University Program Council International Film Series will present surrealist director Luis Bunuel's classic, "Belle de Jour." You can expect sex, bizarre behavior and dreams aplenty in this 1967 tale of a timid housewife who spends her days as a prostitute. "Belle de Jour" shows Sunday at 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Tickets for both "Belle de Jour" and "The Postman" are \$5.50, \$4.50 for students and \$3.50 for children, senior citizens and members of Friends of the Mary Riepma Ross Film The-

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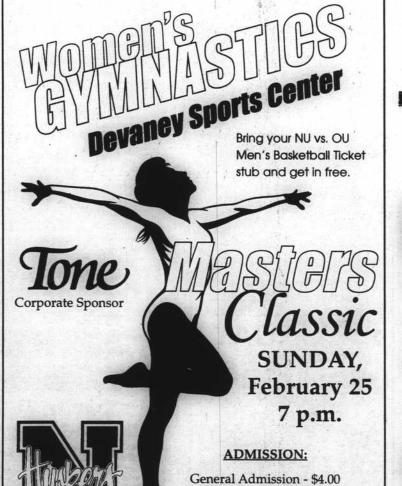
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