



Photo courtesy of United Artists Pictures Inc.

Robin Williams (left) and Nathan Lane star as Armand Goldman and Albert, a gay couple who are forced to act straight when their son's soon-to-be father-in-law pays a visit in "The Birdcage."

Movie lets laughter out of "The Birdcage"

By Gerry Beltz
Film Critic

It's a hoot. "The Birdcage" — the American remake of the successful French comedy "La Cage Aux Folles" — brings together some incredible talent from both the comedic and dramatic fronts.



Armand Goldman (Robin Williams) has his hands full dealing with his neurotic long-time partner, Albert (Nathan Lane). And on top of this, Armand's son, Val (Dan Futterman), announces his engagement.

The problem? Val is engaged to the daughter of Sen. Keeley (Gene Hackman), who is so ultra-conservative he makes Pat Buchanan look like Howard Stern.

Keeley also is trying to rebound from the scandal of his closest political buddy, who was caught with an under-age prostitute, and a nice wholesome wedding is just the thing his public image needs.

Little does he know. Val asks his dad to tone down the apartment to something a bit more conservative, and also to get Albert out for a while. But Albert discovers the scheme and eventually talks Armand

into letting him stay, as long as the two "play it straight."

The film was funny up to this point. From here, it gets downright hilarious and side-splitting.

Williams has a load of fun with this role, not turning Armand into the comment-every-second character he has played in the past, but he still evokes chuckle after chuckle.

Lane absolutely shines throughout the film. Albert is just neurotic enough to make his character interesting, but not so much that we want to yank him off the screen and beat him with a warm zucchini.

The one who does deserve a beating is Val. His character is the weakest of all, considering he is the one who asks for all the changes, even after being raised by two gay men in a long-term, loving, caring relationship.

Hackman's character isn't one that the audience will hate, but one that will be laughed at, considering the situation he is about to walk into and what he does once he gets there.

Another hilarious performance comes from Hank Azaria as Agador, who cleans up the apartment for Albert and Armand. He wants to be a star at Armand's club, but has the graceful-

The Facts

Film: "The Birdcage"
Stars: Robin Williams, Nathan Lane, Gene Hackman
Director: Mike Nichols
Rating: R (adult situations, language, subject matter)
Grade: B
Five Words: Gay couple tries playing straight

ness of a bull elephant on really bad acid, and that's before he wears shoes (which is hilarious in itself).

Director-producer Mike Nichols ("The Graduate," "Wolf") brought an ensemble cast together for "The Birdcage," and he succeeded in making an incredible film. Word has it that Williams was continually ad-libbing throughout the film, and Nichols was probably wise to let him do so.

"The Birdcage" is definitely worth seeing at least once, but you'll probably need to go a second time to catch all the lines you missed because you were laughing so hard.

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210 Announcements

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Submit theme & design on 8 1/2" by 11" paper. No reference to alcohol, drugs or use of derogatory language. Must follow UNL Affirmative Action statement. Entries will be judged on generation of Big Red Spirit, creativity, ease in building display and overall appearance. Deadline March 11. Questions?? call 472-2581 or stop in at the ASUN office, 115 Nebr. Union.

The Dog Pipes
An acapella group for all breeds—March 14th at 8:30pm in the Crib. Free food and drinks! And don't forget to grab your free spring break survival kit! Sponsored by the University Health Center Student Advisory Board and Student Involvement.

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"Writing Your Personal Statement" March 13, 7pm. Union. Sponsored by Arts & Sciences Advising Center, NU-Meds, & Pre-Optometry.

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Teachers college dean's list recognition ceremony has been moved to the Nebraska Union Ballroom March 13 at 7pm.

Camp Challenge Summer Leadership School

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Applications to be an Emerging Leaders Teaching Assistant are now available in the office of Student Involvement, 200 Nebraska Union or 300 Nebraska East Union. Applications are due to the office of Student Involvement 200 Nebraska Union Friday March 29, 1996 by 5:00 p.m.

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EXPERIENCE EUROPE THIS SUMMER!

Don't miss this chance to see the best sites in Europe. Find out how you can see Europe this summer and earn tuition credits at the same time. Information meeting this Wednesday (March 13) at 12:30 p.m., Nebraska (City) Union, Room 334. We'll see you there!

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Zager Studio, 464-7771.

INTRAMURAL SOCCER

Tuesday, March-12 is the last day to enter Men's and Women's Soccer. Don't Delay! Enter your team now at the Office of Campus Recreation. Call 472-3467 for more information.

INTRAMURAL SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL

The last day to enter Co-Rec Slow Pitch Softball is Tuesday, March 12. Don't delay! Enter your team now at the Office of Campus Recreation. Call 472-3467 for more information.

INTRAMURAL BENCH PRESS MEET

The Men's, Women's, and Co-Rec Bench Press Meet will be held Tuesday, March 12 at the Campus Recreation Center. No advance entry is required. Call 472-3467 for more information.

LEARN SPANISH IN MEXICO!

Don't miss this chance to learn to speak Spanish (or improve existing skills) at one of 9 campuses in scenic Mexico this summer. Learn more by attending an information meeting this Wednesday (March 13), at 3:30 p.m., Nebraska (City) Union, Food Court C. ¡Hasta Mañana!

Nebraska Wesleyan Union Programs presents The Jeff Dunham Show. Ventriloquist and comedian featured on The Tonight Show and Comic Strip Live. March 26, 1996 9:00 pm. NWU O'Donnell Auditorium 50th and Huntington. Tickets \$7.00 general admission. Purchase tickets at NWU Student Center and Homers (13th and O, 61st and O).

Nurse Scholarships

Freshmen/sophomore nursing students, cash in on good grades. Apply now for ARMY ROTC Scholarships. Call 472-2468 for more information.

Dancers make athletic twists

By Greg Schick
Dance Critic

The Paul Taylor Dance Company thrilled a Lincoln audience with its modern dance at the Lied Center for Performing Arts on Saturday night.

Lied Center



The company performed three pieces — "Arden Court," "Offenbach Overtures" and "Speaking in Tongues" — from

the repertoire of more than 100 dances choreographed by Taylor.

Taylor's choreography relies heavily on ballet, while emphasizing the athleticism of his dancers.

A line from Shakespeare's "As You Like It" inspired "Arden Court." A group comparable to Robin Hood and his merry men gathered in Arden Forest and would "fleet the time away carelessly."

The dancers resembled fairies as they frolicked in the forest. This piece most closely resembled classical ballet in form, yet took an athletic twist by using other dancers as obstacles.

The crowd's favorite was "Offenbach Overtures," which blended comedy with the movement.

A group of men with Napoleon-style military hats tried to woo a group of women during this set of five overtures.

The funniest turn came as two men danced a "duel" and ended up dancing together with their seconds slugging it out.

"Speaking in Tongues" told the stories of a church congregation and its minister. While this was the longest of the pieces, it was also the most stylized and the least based in classical ballet.

Symphony

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probably more youthfully accessible in his vision to a college audience than some older European conductors," he said.

Although 1,500 tickets have been sold, seats are still available for tonight's performance, Marquis said.

"We urge people to come for an exciting musical evening," he said.

Robert A. Emile, professor of strings and music theory at the UNL School of Music, will give two pre-performance talks in the Lied Center's Steinhart Room at 7:05 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the symphony are \$42, \$38 and \$34 and are half-price for students. They may be obtained by calling 472-4747 or at the Lied Center box office.

PRE-DENT STUDENTS!

UNMC Dentistry at the Arts & Sciences Advising Center, 107 Oldfather, Monday Mar. 11, 1-5. Call 472-4190 for appointment.

PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

Creighton PT, OT & Pharmacy at the Arts & Sciences Advising Center, 107 Oldfather, Wednesday, April 17, 10-2. Call 472-4190 for appointment.

PRE-MED STUDENTS!

Creighton Medicine at the Arts & Sciences Advising Center, 107 Oldfather, Wednesday, March 13, 1-5. Call 472-4190 for appointment.

Pregnant Employees

We are looking for volunteers to assist us in understanding pregnant women's experiences in the workplace. Participation would involve completing an anonymous 20 minute questionnaire that would be mailed to you. For more information, call Michelle Clark at 464-5159.

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SPEND YOUR SUMMER IN CASTLES, CHATEAUX & COUNTRY HOUSES!

Italy, France, Belgium and England are the places to be this summer! Learn more about how you can experience these countries, famous for their examples of historic design, by attending an information meeting this Wednesday (March 13) at 1:00 p.m., Nebraska (City) Union, Room 334.

Student Foundation would like to congratulate Dr. Ronald Hanson from the Department of Agricultural Economics on being selected as this year's recipient to the 1996 Builder's Award. Congratulations.

STUDY IN CHINA & THAILAND THIS SUMMER!

You can learn more about child development, textiles and nutrition in China and attend the Home Economics Congress in Thailand on UNL's far-east summer program. Find out how you can go by attending an information meeting this Wednesday (March 13), at 1:30 p.m., Nebraska (City) Union, Room 334.