

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Cliff Hicks

Web sites: Everybody's doing them

All right. That's it. Everyone else in the world has a web page, so why don't I?

Seriously! Name a company. Wait, let's categorize it. You want to start with the television networks?

ABC (<http://www.abctele.com>), CBS (<http://www.cbs.com>), FOX (<http://www.foxnetwork.com>) and NBC (<http://www.nbc.com>) have their own web sites. Even QVC has one at (<http://www.qvc.com>) for home shopping on the net.

OK, so that was an easy one. All of the television stations should have their own pages. I mean, everyone needs to get television schedules. At least these sites are helpful.

Magazines are informative as well, so they all have web pages too. Time (<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/magazine.html>) and Entertainment Weekly (<http://www.time.com/ew/>) are two of the best. Each has information that someone somewhere can use.

What about some not-so-helpful sites? Oh, there are plenty, but let's just stick to companies.

Thirsty? Yes, refreshment companies have web pages too.

Pepsi (<http://www.pepsi.com>), Coke (<http://www.cocacola.com>), 7-Up (<http://www.7up.com>), Jolt (<http://www.joltcola.com>), Budweiser (<http://www.budweiser.com>) and Jack Daniels (<http://www.infi.net/jackdaniels>) have their own web offerings.

Do you see what I mean? Are you starting to understand why I'm starting to wonder why I don't have my own web page? Certainly I have much more important things to talk about than the ingredients of a soft (or hard) drink.

All I should have to do is start a company, and someone will give me a web page. If it doesn't work this way, it most certainly should.

Like automotive companies. They've all got their own homepages. Honda (<http://www.honda.com>), Ford (<http://www.ford.com>), Toyota (<http://www.toyota.com>), BMW (<http://www.bmw.de>), Chevrolet (<http://www.chevrolet.com>), Cadillac (<http://www.cadillac.com>), General Motors (<http://www.gm.com>), Volkswagen (<http://www.volkswagen.com>), Pontiac (<http://www.pontiac.com>) and Saturn (<http://www.saturncars.com>) all have homepages.

If you own a car company, you own a homepage.

But it's not just car companies. The government has several homepages. If they have an abbreviation, they have a homepage.

The FBI (<http://www.fbi.com>), the CIA (<http://www.odci.gov/cia>), the IRS (<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>) and the National Security Agency (<http://www.nsa.gov:8080/>) all have pages as well.

Even Viewmaster has a homepage! (<http://circa.com/viewmaster>).

I've got it! Go drive the new Hicksmobile, buy Cliff-Cola, get watched by C.A.S.I.O. (Cliff's Agency for Spy Intelligence and Operations) and read the Daily Nebraskan. I'll have that web page any minute now.

Hicks is a freshman news-editorial and English major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

Scots' honors: 'Braveheart' wins 5 Oscars

By Bob Thomas

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) - "Braveheart," the epic about a 13th-century Scottish patriot, won five Oscars Monday night, including best picture and best director for its star Mel Gibson.

Best acting awards went to Susan Sarandon for her performance as a nun trying to redeem a condemned killer in "Dead Man Walking" and to Nicolas Cage as the alcoholic intending to drink himself to death in "Leaving Las Vegas."

In a year when no picture was an odds-on favorite, "Braveheart" proved to be the biggest winner. It collected Oscars for makeup, sound

effects editing and cinematography, too.

The battle-filled saga tells the story of Scotsman William Wallace, who fought the English for freedom for his people.

Gibson, a plaid vest flashing from between the lapels of his tuxedo, thanked writer Randall Wallace and producer Alan Ladd Jr. for bringing the script to a "fiscal imbecile."

"Like most directors, what I really want to do is act," Gibson joked.

He granted his own wish, casting himself as the wild-haired warrior who drove the English from Scotland.

"Braveheart" was Gibson's second outing as a director, the first

being "The Man Without a Face" in 1993. He follows a line of actors turned director who have won Oscars: Robert Redford, Warren Beatty, Woody Allen, Kevin Costner.

When Sarandon's award was announced, she kissed her director, writer and lover, Tim Robbins, and walked to the stage to a thunderous ovation.

She thanked many co-workers and Sister Helen Prejean, who she portrayed. Then she drew a laugh with an accolade to Robbins, her unmarried partner.

"To my partner in crime and all things of the heart, the writer, the producer the director, the spirit, Tim Robbins. ... Thank God we live to-

gether."

Cage breezed to the podium and marveled that "Leaving Las Vegas" could be made for \$3.5 million, and on 16mm film stock when most movies are made on 35 or 70mm film.

"I know it's not hip to say it but I just love acting and I hope that there will be more encouragement for alternative movies where we can experiment and fast-forward into the future of acting," he said.

Like Gibson, Emma Thompson also received an Oscar in another area of her craft, adapting the Jane Austen novel "Sense and Sensibil-

See OSCARS on 10

'Diabolique' story line drags along

By Cliff Hicks

Film Critic

Despite the fact that, at first, the pace of "Diabolique" moves about as quickly as six dead men racing to a coffin by themselves, it's actually a pretty good film.

The premise is simple. Guy Baran (Chazz Palminteri) is a jerk. He's married to Mia (Isabelle Adjini) and is also having an affair with Nicole (Sharon Stone).

Mia and Nicole kill Guy. They put the body in a pool and wait for it to resurface. Then the body disappears.

After a while, Mia tries to play up the illusion of innocence by hiring an off-duty cop (Kathy Bates) to investigate. This is where things start to get interesting.

"Diabolique" suffers from near rigor mortis toward the beginning, as the setup for the film plods on and on. Toward the beginning of the film, despite gratuitous skin shots of Adjini and a brief flash of sex between Palminteri and Stone, there's nothing to snare the viewer.

Photography influences artist

By Patrick Hambrecht

Senior Reporter

Before the opening reception Monday of his gallery show "Photographs: The Paradox of Space," artist Steve Yates told an audience about both his recent experiences in Russia and why his photographic installation work transcended all boundaries of language.

Yates' show is on display today and Wednesday in Richards Hall.

Although Yates is also a museum curator for photography in the Museum of New Mexico, he said his art could not be defined in the "modernist" terms of textbooks and art critics.

"I just don't see that it is connected to much of anything," Yates said about his art. "I think it goes beyond the post-modern. I think it's beyond 'isms.'"

Yates' installation consists of repeated photographic images, each made slightly different through darkroom manipulation.



Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjini are a pair of murderous women scorned in the new film from director Jeremiah Chechik, "Diabolique."

Not that it's really anyone's fault. Stone plays the heartless Nicole fairly well and Adjini looks like a deer caught in headlights for the first half of the film.

Palminteri is easy to hate with the way he carries himself, and the little time we see him before the murder gives the audience more than enough to despise.

About the time the off-duty police officer, Shirley, walks into the picture, things begin to get interesting. Bates is marvelous, the only

well-done thing in a medium-rare film.

She plays Shirley up as a cancer survivor crossed with a character from "Cagney & Lacey." Her performance is impeccable, and every time she appears, the film brightens significantly.

At times, the best thing about the film is the camera work, with beautiful shots slowed down for added effect. After a while, it gets repetitive trying to blend a suspense film with an art film, and the film simply doesn't offer enough action to balance out.

"I don't know an artist in Russia who's not dipping into photography. But I couldn't call them photographers. I wouldn't dare!"

STEVE YATES
artist

With no relationship to the images photographed, Yates burns primary-colored lines and dots on top of his pictures, as though confetti were dropped in front of his camera lens.

Geometric shapes are also physically cut out of the photos and occasionally pasted back onto them at random. The photos themselves are always arranged in grids, forming non-linear squares and rectangles.

Yates said he was influenced heavily by the 1920s photography of the Russian avant-garde. Recently, he has traveled back to the country, participating in international art projects and educating the citizens about their own cultural heritage.

Russians are enjoying the beginning of a new cultural renaissance, Yates said, and they depend on countries like the United States to "mainstream them into the world." Artists in Russia are moving beyond the formal art movements of yesterday, synthesizing old art traditions into dynamic new combinations, he said.

"I don't know know an artist in Russia who's not dipping into photography," Yates said. "But I couldn't call them photographers. I wouldn't dare!"

But no matter what Yates said, he cautioned his audience to take his descriptions of the installation with a grain of salt.

Gallery hours at Richards Hall are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The Facts

Film: "Diabolique"
Stars: Sharon Stone, Isabelle Adjini, Chazz Palminteri, Kathy Bates
Director: Jeremiah Chechik
Rating: R (nudity, violence, language)
Grade: C+
Five Words: "Diabolique" starts slow, ends well

Military ensemble will play

The Air Combat Command of the Heartland of America Brass Ensemble will perform tonight at Kimball Recital Hall at 8. Admission is free.

John Whiteman, promotions and publications coordinator for UNL's School of Music, said the six-person ensemble — five brass performers and one percussionist — would play more than just the standard military music.

"They play a variety, including classical music, jazz and the standard brass ensemble music as well," Whiteman said.

— Gerry Beltz