



Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

Steve Buscemi stars as the frog-eyed and frazzled director of a low-budget independent film in director Tom DiCillo's low-budget independent film, "Living in Oblivion."

Oblivion

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"Oblivion" spares no excruciatingly repetitive take, no actor's tantrum, not a single technical gaff (is that what gaffers do?) in its long, exceedingly long, and winding way.

A virtual nightmare of a film, it makes the movie industry seem as narrow and tedious as it no doubt actually is.

The stars of "Oblivion" are easy to watch, I'll say that for it. Steve Buscemi ("Reservoir Dogs") is in excellent voice; frenetic and hilarious as the director of this bomb-within-a-

bomb, his frog-eyed performance is so intense as to make the other actors look like laconic walk-ons.

Catherine Keener is beautiful and disturbed as the leading lady of Buscemi's film. Her brief nude scene is all that will stay in this reviewer's mind after the whole rest of the bloody mess is forgotten.

And Dermot Mulroney is handsome and pretentious as, um, a cameraman? Some kind of low-rung cinematographer? It's hard to tell.

Everything else about the film is pretty lame. Lamer, even, than DiCillo's earlier "Johnny Suede," which at least had the benefit of the presence of Mr. Brad Pitt in his

The Facts

Film: Living in Oblivion

Stars: Steve Buscemi, Catherine Keener, Dermot Mulroney

Director: Tom DiCillo

Rating: R (language, brief nudity)

Grade: C-

Five Words: "It was all a dream ..."

Underoos.

Movie freaks should go ahead and take their medicine, but all others may stay away.

'Fences' tackles family's survival

By Brian Priesman
Staff Reporter

Fatherhood is one of the most difficult jobs available. Add on the struggle of being a black man during the socially turbulent '50s, and the job becomes even more difficult.

"Fences," Theatrix's latest production, tells the story of an ex-Negro League baseball player doing his best to teach his family how to survive.

Written by Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson, "Fences" is considered by many to be a "must-see" for theatre fans.

"The play is basically about family," Director Mark A. Klemetstrud

said. The family in this case is the Maxson family. The father, Troy Maxson, is stuck with the difficult task of teaching his family how to survive in a racist and harsh world — or as the character puts it, to "take the crooked with the straights."

Set against the changing world of an urban industrial city in the '50s, "Fences" explores the responsibilities all parents feel toward their children and the ways parents try to keep their children from making the same mistakes they made.

"It's about a father trying to teach his son how to survive," Klemetstrud said. "It's also about responsibility."

Because of past mistreatment and racism, Klemetstrud said, Maxson tries to instill his family with the ability to protect itself.

"It's about how he approaches that responsibility."

The all-black cast includes three

UNL students and four Lincoln residents, including Mikael Walter, a fourth-grade student at Brownell Elementary School.

"It's not unusual in a Theatrix production to use community members," Klemetstrud said.

"A lot of people thought I would not be able to cast the show in Lincoln," he said. "I really had no idea if I could or not."

But, Klemetstrud said, "Fences" is not about race and racism.

"One of the great things about the show is that it is not real heavy in the race issue," he said.

"There are a lot of universal aspects that hold true for all families."

"Fences" opens tonight and runs through Sunday at the Studio Theatre in the Temple Building, 12th and R streets. Show times are 8 p.m. through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$3 and are available only at the door.

Theater

Ravine

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cordings. Kozik, a celebrated poster artist, has agreed to do a poster for the band's upcoming show with Seven Year Bitch and Season to Risk.

As with any breakup, feelings were hurt and some toes were stepped on. "Certain people hold it against us that the band broke up," Saklar said.

In the next few weeks, the band plans on recording a demo, buying a van and lining up tour dates. By the end of 1996, the band would like to have both European and American tours.

Ravine will join Rasputin in opening for Godplow this Saturday at Omaha's Cog Factory, 2224 Leavenworth St. Tickets for the all-ages show are \$4 and will be sold at the door. The concert will begin at 9 p.m.

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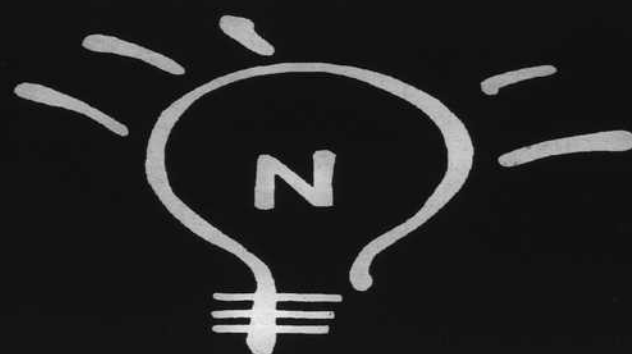
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