

## Artists use print mediums with elements from religion

By FRED POYNER  
Art Critic

Combinations of Catholic rituals and Pagan mysticism and a thorough exploration of the print medium and its adaptations best describe two new shows at Gallery 9 and the Haydon Gallery.

"Mysticism, Myth and magic," featuring mixed medium works by Patty Gallimore, underlies the notion that the artist is a recovering Catholic, bent on exploring the effect such an upbringing has had on her life through her artworks. The photo series "A Woman Clothed in the Sun" and Masonic paintings such as "Seven Seals" focus on the Book of Revelations as one source of inspiration.

Not to say that her paintings don't incorporate religious elements from other cultures, as in her striking red-and-black rendition of the Devil as "El Diablo" or the facial markings of a Maori warrior in "Tattoo."

"The Modern Print" provides an excellent group show of prints, italo, lithograph, block print, and mixed media. "American Neighbors" a color woodcut by Roger Shimomura, "Not Really" a monoprint and watercolor by Kathleen Kuchar, Kate Brooke's "Entasis; Jane" and James Butler's "Still Life with Glass and Clay" mix old style and modern, gray tone and color, abstract and pop in an exhibition stimulating in its variety of styles as well as mediums.

"Mysticism, Myth and magic" runs through Dec. 1 at Gallery 9, 124 S. 9th St. "The Modern Print" runs through Nov. 23 at the Haydon Gallery, 335 N. 8th St.

# The Phantom of the Opera



## Symphony stirs Orpheum; breaks silence of 'Phantom'

By ANN STACK  
Music Critic

Hold your arms up and watch out for falling chandeliers.... the Phantom of the Opera is near.

In a perfect tribute to Halloween, the Omaha Symphony SuperPops performed the musical accompaniment to the original 1925 silent film "The Phantom of the Opera" last weekend at the Orpheum Theatre in Omaha under guest conductor Donald Hunsberger.

Based on the 1911 novel by Gaston Leroux, "Phantom" is one of Universal Pictures' greatest triumphs. Lon

Chaney, as Erik, the hideous and misunderstood Opera Ghost, is at his finest.

During introductory remarks, Hunsberger discussed the history of "Phantom" and the silent movie genre. Then, with pianist-organist Russell Schmidt (the "voice" of the Phantom) and the rest of the musicians, he plunged into the overture, Giuseppe Verdi's "La Forza Del Destino."

A screen lowered, shielding the musicians from sight and making the audience forget live performers were providing the "voices" behind the "silent" film.

"The Phantom of the Opera" takes place in the famed Paris Opera House.

Erik is the maniacal composer who haunts the backstage and subterranean depths of the house. He falls in love with Christine Daae, a young singer.

His goal is make Christine the prima donna of the Opera. To accomplish this, he must get rid of her competition, leading soprano Carlotta. In a classic scene, he causes a chandelier to fall during her performance of Marguerite in Gounod's "Faust." This is only time the orchestra was slightly off in making their cues.

After a brief intermission, it came time for the scene the crowd of 2,333 had been waiting for Friday night. With the orchestra dead-on target, Christine pulls off the mask from behind in a rage of cymbal crashes and pounding drums to incur the Phantom's wrath.

Leroux himself wrote that "the Opera Ghost really existed...in flesh and blood." Gazing around the Orpheum Theater last weekend, it was easy to believe again.

## Monks bring ancient rite to UNL

By FRED POYNER  
Art Critic

As both an art form and a testimony to Tantric Buddhism, the formation and subsequent destruction of a sand mandala is a unique experience to behold.

The Lentz Center for Asian Culture in Morrill Hall is currently sponsoring three monks from the Sera Je Monastery of Tibet, in an exhibition of Tibetan art which includes the seven-day construction of a ritual sand mandala.

Through combinations of intricate geometric patterns, spirals and lines drawn in colored sands, the mandala's

construction becomes an act of meditation. It's an illustration of worship and a representation of a protector of Buddhist law, called Hayagriva.

As work on the ever-expanding design continues, monks chant and pray, further demonstrating how Tantric Buddhism focuses on bringing the individual worshiper into contact with a deity or transcendent principle. Mandalas are one way to physically attain such a contact.

Watching the patient efforts of the trio is an act of meditation in itself. The skill necessary to create the mandala is doubly impressive, when an observer considers the time period involved and the unforgiving nature of sand as a medium.

Throughout the gallery space and around the mandala in the center are pieces from the Lentz's permanent collection that also represent the religious arts and culture of Tibet. Sculptures of feminine deities, prayer amulet boxes and a sacred altar are a few of the objects that share a history with the present activities of the Buddhist faith.

Next Saturday the ritual will conclude with the destruction of the mandala, reflecting the monks' belief in a cycle of life that acknowledges the impermanence of all things.

The Lentz Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

## 'Raisin' cast gives life to classic play

RAISIN from page 12

shake the shackles of his chauffeur job for a white man and open his own store.

The play never shifts from the apartment; set designer Rob McKercher designed a modest and cozy set complete with yellowing walls and graying family photos.

Standout talent permeates the play as local actors step up to the challenge of producing a play which demands both humorous timing and passionate melodrama.

Robert Lott, playing the adolescent Travis Younger, does a remarkable job for his first Mainstage debut. He competently plays a reluctant, yet good-natured youth confused by the financial and domestic struggles of his frustrated parents.

Lott's performance is well complemented by his aunt, played by Zoe Zgud, a young idealistic and narcissistic college student struggling with her African heritage in white society.

The cast effectively and poignantly relays the pain of an American black family isolated by the ghetto from the middle-class world.

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CLASSIFIED INDEX	
<b>FOR SALE</b> 000s	<b>HOUSING</b> 400
02 Appliances	400 Roommates
05 Bicycles	410 Housing Wanted
10 Books	420 Rooms/Rent
13 Clothing	430 Houses/Rent
16 Computers	440 Duplex/Rent
20 Furniture	450 Apartments/Rent
30 Jewelry	460 Summer Housing
40 Misc. For Sale	470 Mobile Homes/Rent
45 Musical Instruments	480 Vacation/Rent
46 Office Furniture	490 Homes/Sale
50 Pets	
55 Photo Equipment	<b>SERVICES</b> 500s
60 Sporting Goods	600 Adoption
65 Stamps/TVs	505 Alterations & Sewing
70 Ticket Exchange	510 Automotive
90 Vehicles	515 Bicycle Service
	520 Bridal
	525 Catering
	528 Child Care
	530 Cleaning/Laundry
	531 Cleaning/Household
	535 Computer Service
	540 Entertainment

215 Meetings  
220 Greek Affairs  
230 Student Government  
240 Personals  
242 Pinning & Engagements  
245 Lost & Found  
250 Wanted  
260 Fundraising  
270 900 Numbers

**JOBS** 300s

300 Help Wanted  
310 Child Care  
320 Work Study Jobs  
330 Summer Jobs  
340 Internships

545 Gift Ideas  
548 Hairstyling  
550 Health & Fitness  
553 Insurance  
555 Instruction/Tutoring  
558 Job Placement  
560 Lawn care  
565 Legal Services  
573 Music Exchange  
575 Photography  
578 Pregnancy  
580 Printing & Copying  
582 Recycling  
583 Religious  
585 Rentals  
588 Tanning  
590 Tattooing  
593 Travel  
595 Typing & Resumes

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