

# TGIF

## Entertainment doesn't allow for boredom

There is no excuse to be bored this weekend. Everyone can find something to do. Some of these things are here, some of them are in Omaha; most of them will be fun and those that aren't — oh well.

The new movie list is somewhat limited this week. There are only two new films and one opened Wednesday.

Mel Gibson releases his first film since "Braveheart" — "Ransom," which also stars Rene Russo, Delroy Lindo and Gary Sinise.

"Ransom" portrays Gibson as a loving father whose child is kidnapped. Instead of giving the kidnapper the money, he offers the money as a reward for the kidnapper's head.

Not only is Gibson in this, but it's directed by Ron Howard, whom Gibson beat out for the Best Director Oscar. Gibson triumphed with "Braveheart" over Howard's film, "Apollo 13."

"Set It Off" opened Wednesday. The film tells the story of three women who, after being disgusted with the quality of life around them, turn into bank robbers.

The film stars Vivica Fox, Kimberly Elise, Jada Pinkett and Queen Latifah. It looks to be part social commentary, part "Thelma & Louise."

The Ranch Bowl in Omaha has a fantastic selection of alternative music this weekend.

Son Volt, half of the now-defunct legend Uncle Tupelo, will play at 9 tonight. If you haven't heard the single, "Drown," you probably haven't had alternative radio on in awhile. Tickets are \$10.

Industrial thrash-rockers Stabbing Westward storm Ranch Bowl's stage Saturday night. While the first single of their second album didn't make a big splash, "Shame" has done quite well. The show starts at 9 p.m. and tickets are \$10, but if you wait until Saturday and they're \$12.

Upcoming shows from the Ranch Bowl include Primitive Radio Gods, with Duncan Shick opening, and Semisonic, both before the end of the month.

The Zoo Bar will be offering the reggae stylings of Yabba Griffiths tonight. Saturday, blues guitarist Tom Principato will perform. Tickets are \$5 for both shows. Music will begin at 9 tonight and Saturday night.

Hispanic roots-rock band Los Lobos takes the stage at the Pershing Auditorium on Saturday. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$16.25.

The Mueller Planetarium will feature the music of Metallica this weekend, with shows at 8, 9:30 and 11 both tonight and Saturday night.

Comedian George Carlin will take over Omaha's Orpheum Theater's stage tonight at 8. Tickets are \$25.

TGIF is compiled by staff reporter Cliff Hicks.

# The Pianowoman



TORI AMOS sings at the packed Orpheum Theater in Omaha Thursday night.



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN SWITCHING BETWEEN a Bösendorfer grand piano and a harpsichord Thursday night, Tori Amos entertained a capacity crowd in the Orpheum Theater in Omaha.

## Amos brings intimacy to Omaha's Orpheum

By JOSHUA GILLIN  
Music Critic

OMAHA — Entertainment Weekly once compared Tori Amos' fans to The Grateful Dead's in terms of devotion. At Amos' concert at the Orpheum Theater Thursday night, it was easy to see why.

A capacity crowd of 2,759 watched as Amos gave a classically bizarre performance, writhing on her piano bench and improvising on songs that already showed a wide range of musical influence.

After the satisfying performance of blues-style guitarist Joshua Clayton Felt, Amos came on stage amidst the cheers of hundreds of adoring fans.

Singing in a voice that ranged from an airy whisper to a high-pitched wail to a guttural growl, Amos opened her

lengthy set with "Horses," the first cut off her latest album, "Boys for Pele."

While the lighting effects were a bit sloppy at first, the show quickly became visually and aurally entertaining. Amos switched between the on-stage Bösendorfer piano and harpsichord during the performance, playing "Blood Roses" early in the set.

A peppering of cover tunes, including Nine Inch Nails' "Hurt," were followed by a soulful version of "Little Amsterdam." Amos also played her past hits "Little Earthquakes" and "Leather" before starting to converse with her audience, a signature of Amos' performances.

The singer then broke into an interpretive dance after her visit with the audience and began to play her smash "Cornflake Girl." A swinging version

Please see AMOS on 14

# 'Ransom' works with ardent acting, plot

By BRET SCHULTE  
Movie Critic

### The Facts

**Film:** "Ransom"  
**Cast:** Mel Gibson, Rene Russo, Gary Sinise, Delroy Lindo, Lili Taylor, Brawley Nolte  
**Director:** Ron Howard  
**Grade:** B  
**Five Words:** Two macho men face off.

Imaginatively derived from the famous Lindbergh kidnapping, this modern re-telling resonates with Hollywood gloss, suspense and almost unbelievable bravado.

Ron Howard's remake of the 1956 classic "Ransom" operates with technological intelligence, passionate acting and a plot which jumps from scenes of laughter to scenes of silence with both competence and style.

Tom Mullen (Mel Gibson) grew up as an ordinary American kid in an ordinary American family. Through initiative and ambition he founded the fourth-largest airline in the country from his humble beginnings as a fighter pilot.

Although Mullen is portrayed as a family man, there are questions about his ethics, specifically a possible bribe to the machinists union that is striking his airline. The doubt raised about Mullen's character is effectively and skillfully manipulated throughout the negotiations of the kidnapping of his son.

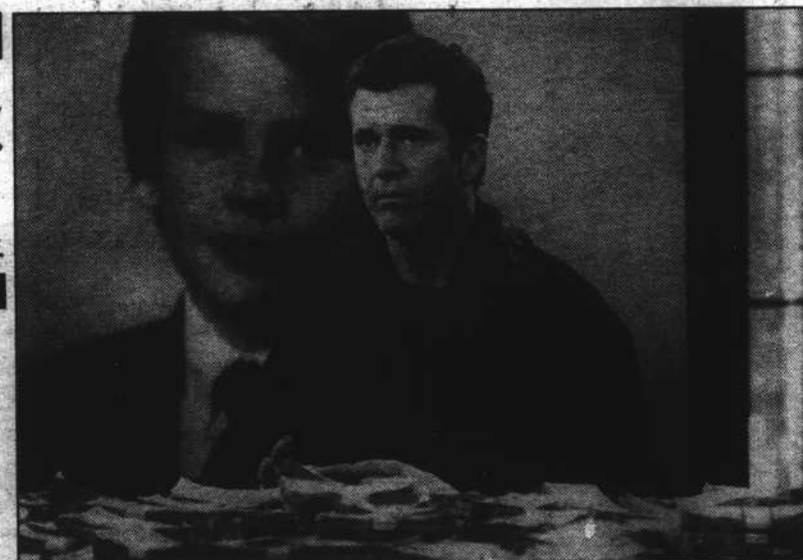
The abduction of Mullen's son Sean, well-cast with Nick Nolte's boy, Brawley Nolte, occurs very early in the

film. "Ransom" rapidly pulls the audience through fear and shock as the calculating and technically advanced abductors demand Mullen's money, or Sean will never be seen again.

Tom Mullen, sick of the games played by the abductors decides to take the offensive, and the suspense kicks into high gear. Although such blatant disregard for his son's safety may seem hard to imagine, both the script and the acting create a believable scenario of frustration and desperate actions. Rene Russo's passionate portrayal as Sean's grief-stricken mother greatly assists in the sudden tragedy of her boy's abduction.

Gary Sinise plays detective Jimmy Shaker, a hard-boiled New York cop grown resentful of the upper class and their removal from the daily stresses and dilemmas of the working class.

Although most characters in this



MEL GIBSON stars as a father pushed too far in Touchstone Pictures' new release, "Ransom."

film are relatively believable, Donnie Wahlberg, whose failed music career has led him to Hollywood, is sorely miscast. He plays "Cubbie" a stupid, yet affable abductor whose kind-hearted tendencies are supposed to bring a touch of humanitarianism to his deplorable treatment of Sean Mullen.

Wahlberg's acting is minimal and laughable, and the character is a worn

out stereotype which was completely out of place in this intelligent and well-paced film.

"Ransom" joins the ranks of several successfully entertaining mainstream thrillers recently released, such as "The Fugitive" and "Speed." Although these movies are quickly becoming a dime a dozen, they are still good for a fun two hours of easy escapism.