

Two Nebraska bands play at conference

Editor's note: Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter Ann Stack is spending this week at the SXSW Music and Media Conference in Austin, Texas. This is her first story in a week-long series from the conference.

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

The SXSW (pronounced "South By Southwest") Music and Media Conference and Festival is one of the music industry's largest trade shows in the country.

The Music and Media Conference was the original event at SXSW. The conference, held today through Sunday, includes three days of panel discussions, workshops, mentor sessions and demo critiques, as well as five nights of live music. Added to the music conference is a film and multimedia/interactive conference.

There is also a NXNW conference held in Portland, Ore., and a NXNE conference held in Toronto. These are both on a smaller scale than SXSW, but are organized by the producers of SXSW.

In its 11th year, the festival draws more than 5,000 professionals from the music business—publishers, journalists, radio programmers, label representatives, producers, club owners, booking agents and managers, to name a few.

But let's not forget the bands. More than 600 independent and unsigned artists are chosen to play at SXSW, out of the 4,500-plus that audition, SXSW creative director and Omaha native Brent Grulke said.

Two Nebraska bands are performing at the conference. Lincoln's Lullaby For The Working Class and Omaha's Blue Moon Ghetto were both accepted to perform at SXSW. Lullaby played Wednesday. Blue Moon Ghetto will play Saturday.

As long as Grulke's in charge, he said, Nebraska will be represented at SXSW.

"I say every year there has to be Nebraska bands," he said.

Blue Moon Ghetto applied last year, but



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

wasn't accepted. This year, they didn't foresee rejection as a problem, drummer Joel Kassera said.

"We weren't really ready last year," he said. "This year, we knew we deserved to go; we've worked really hard the past year."

Part of that hard work included a new album set to be released next month and a regional tour under their collective belt.

Lullaby For The Working Class is also making its SXSW festival debut. They're a bit nervous because this will be their first show with two new members. Drummer Clint Schnase will play at SXSW, and Ben McMahan, a UNL junior film studies major, will join the band on cello, mandolin and slide guitar.

Some of the other bands featured at this year's SXSW festival include Matthew Sweet, Soul Coughing, DC Talk, Cake, Brave Combo,

Lisa Loeb, Seven Mary Three, Royal Crown Revue, Mojo Nixon and the Toadliquors and the Jayhawks.

"I'm happy to be a part of something this big," said Mike Mogis, a senior UNL business major and Lullaby For The Working Class' multi-instrumentalist. "Although at this point, it still seems like just another show. It hasn't really hit me yet."

Movie Review



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSS FILM THEATER

MAI HUYNH (right) and Dominican Overstreet star in "A Tale of Love," a film adaptation of the classic Vietnamese narrative poem, "The Tale of Kieu." The film is directed by Trinh T. Minh-ha.

'A Tale of Love' lacks title meaning

By BRET SCHULTE
Film Critic

Feminist Vietnamese filmmaker Trinh T. Minh-ha has developed a reputation for her formalized, avant-garde productions using a distinct non-Western film style and subject matter.

Her latest work, "A Tale of Love," loosely retells the Vietnamese national poem of love, "The Tale of Kieu," which describes the life of a young woman who is forced to prostitute herself to support her family. Written in the early 19th century, the poem is seen as an extended metaphor for the tumultuous history of the Vietnamese people.

Minh-ha brings the traditional tale to America, updating the poem for the '90s by adjusting the lead character Kieu (Mai Huynh), who works as a semi-nude model and free-lance writer to send money back to her family in Vietnam.

While Minh-ha's distinct style has won her accolades in the past, "A Tale of Love" is a heavy and difficult film, more laborious than enjoyable.

The cinematography and set work are visually stunning. Very basic, strong colors are used throughout, frequently pairing the

The Facts

Film: "A Tale of Love"
Stars: Mai Huynh, Juliette Chen, Dominican Overstreet, Mai Le Ho
Director: Trinh T. Minh-ha
Rating: Unrated (adult situations, nudity)
Grade: C
Five Words: Love hurts, so does film

character with his or her surroundings. The camera rarely moves, but when it does it is important and noticeable. This lends the film an aura of patience and voyeurism which probes to be a recurring theme throughout.

Oddly enough, what is not a theme, is love. Kieu dabbles in eroticism with her photographer, and there are brief interludes of a friendship with another male friend, but never is there a hint of love in these relationships.

Instead Kieu occupies herself with the abstraction of love, frequently engaging in esoteric and essentially cliched discussions of love with her mentor and friend, Juliet, woodenly played by Juliette Chen. From her performance one would guess she's never answered to the name "Juliet" in her life.

Please see **LOVE** on 13

High-tech tag hits Lincoln at Laser Quest

By GERRY BELTZ
Senior Reporter

The air-lock door opens, you step into a black-light arena covered with fluorescent paints and the countdown begins.

BEEP ... BEEP ... BEEP ...

The music starts pumping, and you must decide: up the ramp and go for the high shot, or roam through the maze-like ground level, worrying about what awaits around the next corner?

Suddenly, the 30 seconds are up. Your laser is on, your vest and laser sensors are active, and you have become a moving target.

You're at Laser Quest, 6802A P St., (next to Northwest Fabrics), Lincoln's latest amusement arena.

Gary "Gare Bear" Lamb, general manager of Laser Quest, said this is not a recreation involving death and violence.

"We're not playing violent games here," Lamb said. "It's a high-tech combination of hide 'n' seek and tag."

Each Laser Quest mission (\$6; \$5 if you're a member) consists of four phases: payment, check-in, briefing and score.

"Check-in is where you give us your code name for the mission," said Laser Quest manager Dan "Java Mon" Christz, "and it does need to be something your grandma would approve of."

Please see **LASER** on 13