

**Movie Review**

# Epic-style movie portrays sensitive tale of acceptance

**BY BRET SCHULTE**  
Film Critic

Seldom are we offered an objective view of a story rife with pain, torture and mental anguish, but seldom do we see films with the quality of "Paradise Road."

Based on the story by David Giles and Martin Meader, "Paradise Road" is a film of near-epic proportions spanning years of torture and captivity, documenting the trials, terrors and unbreakable spirit of those involved.

Opening in Beijing, 1942, a formal ball filled with British aristocrats is suddenly interrupted with the blasts of approaching Japanese soldiers. Forced to evacuate, the wives of British officers and other important figures are separated from their husbands and put on a ship back to England. Among the female aristocracy is Adrienne Pargiter, competently played by Glenn Close.

As the wife of a prominent political figure, Adrienne is singularly honest and outspoken as well as generally doubtful of the British confidence that Japan will easily succumb to their

superior forces. Loaded with women and children, the ship is attacked and sunk by the Japanese. The survivors are forced into a female prison camp in Sumatra, where they encounter women of varying European descent and years of hard labor at the hands of their Japanese captors.

The snobbish British women are forced to forget the imaginary lines that have separated them from society for so long, and they learn to love and help each other if any are to survive.

Driving this point home is Frances McDormand, who plays a doctor and the only German captive at the camp. Immediately she is shunned and derided by the others as an ally to the Japanese, although she dedicates herself adamantly to her patients. The Academy Award-winning actress' performance is a bit overwrought in this picture, however, and her air of aloofness accompanied with repeatedly droll and dry comments becomes a bit tedious.

Director Bruce Beresford has created a picture of startling imagery, humanity and fairness in the face of

**The Facts**

**Film:** "Paradise Road"  
**Stars:** Glenn Close, Frances McDormand, Pauline Collins, Sab Shimono  
**Director:** Bruce Beresford  
**Rating:** R (Violence, Nudity, Adult Situations)  
**Grade:** B+  
**Five Words:** Emotional film keeps objective view

extreme oppression and fear on the part of the women.

Completed with a classic, epic style, director Bruce Beresford goes to great lengths to interject shocking moments of torture and shame with compelling events revealing the innate goodness of humanity.

With sensitive and well-paced artistic sense, grand cinematic work and a powerful musical score, "Paradise Road" is ultimately a story dealing with the instinctive human ability to transcend race, religion and fear, which enables us to endure nearly any situation.

# Benefit concert will aid environmental club

**BY ANN STACK**  
Senior Reporter

Indigenous, a blues outfit of siblings hailing from Marty, S.D., will play a benefit show for the Missouri Valley Sierra Club tonight at the Royal Grove Nightclub, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway.

"They're (Indigenous) very conscientious of the environmental movement," chairman of the Missouri Valley Sierra Club Rick Galusha said. "The music industry has always used music to raise money for a good cause, and a strong environment is a pretty

good cause." The Sierra Club is a 100-year-old national grass-roots organization dedicated to promoting environmental issues. Nearly half a million members work on water and soil conservation issues, as well as plan awareness-raising events.

One of the issues the Missouri Valley Club, which is the region of Omaha and Lincoln, is the preservation of the Niobrara River in western Nebraska. The group recently did a large postcard campaign to the Nebraska Legislature as part of the Earth Day celebration.

"We're trying to educate (them)

and let (them) know how important the environment is here in Nebraska," said Mark Welsch, a Sierra Club spokesman.

The money raised from the benefit show will go toward advertising and promoting the Sierra Club, as well as off-setting the costs of operation and a monthly newsletter, he said.

"We hope to raise the awareness of people," he said. "The environment is a precious thing, and we need people to help protect it. Bad things happen when you don't get involved."

The show begins at 8 p.m. with opening band Ivory Star. There is a \$5 cover charge.

# Quartet blends music with love, originality

**PATRICK MINER**  
Staff Reporter

If you're not in the mood to study for finals on Saturday night, you may want to take a stroll down Mulberry Lane.

Mulberry Lane, a quartet of sisters from Omaha, will bring its original sound to Lincoln Saturday evening at Betti's Rainbow Coffee House, 42nd and O streets. The three-set performance begins at 9 and ends about midnight.

By attending one of the group's

shows, it becomes obvious that Mulberry Lane created its sound for those with a deep love for original music. The range of voices that makes up the group's sound forms an intriguing blend that fills the room, making for an excellent, informal atmosphere. Songs such as "Jeremiah," "Twilight" and "The Ian Barnes Song" leave melodies fresh in your mind.

To be on Mulberry Lane's mailing list, people can either fill out an application at the show, or call (402) 978-8806. The band hopes to release its first record in July, and it should prove to be as electrifying as the live performances.

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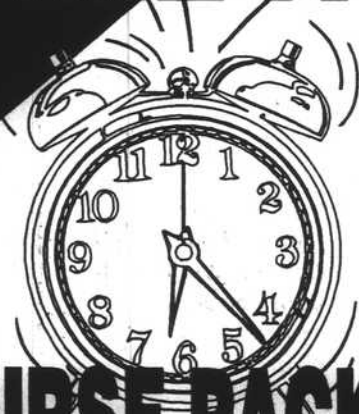
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