

# Entertainment Guide

## Ross Theatre offers on-campus film diversions

BY GERRY BELTZ  
Features Editor

No, you don't have to venture into the wretched hive of downtown Lincoln to see a movie. In fact, you don't have to set foot off of UNL grounds. Over on 12<sup>th</sup> and R Streets, in the Sheldon Art Gallery, awaits the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theatre with a cornucopia of summer films to lighten, brighten and enlighten hearts and minds everywhere. Films at the Ross play Thursday through Sunday, usually only for one or two weeks at a shot, so move quickly. Also, don't forget your student ID for an all-important discount.

The big event coming this summer to the Ross is the Great Plains Film Festival, running from July 15 through July 27, where moviemakers from all around this region come in to show their special works.

**"Kolya"** (playing through June 15) – A Czechoslovakian film, following the life of an unemployed concert cellist who, tired of playing at funerals and painting tombstones, accepts a rather ludicrous proposal to get out of a large debt.

**"Whole Wide World"** (6/19 - 6/22, 6/26 - 6/29) – A small-town romance blooms between a fantasy book writer (Vincent D'Onofrio, "Full Metal Jacket") and the local grouch (Renee Zellweger, "Jerry Maguire"). The two powerhouses in the lead roles make this simplistic-looking film to be a great piece of work.

**"Watermelon Woman"** (7/3 - 7/6, 7/10 - 7/13) – A black lesbian filmmaker (Cheryl Dunye) is trying to uncover information and document the life of an obscure actress from the 30s, but meets up with both racial and sexual opposition. The cinematography for the film is splendid, mixing various styles to come up with something off the beaten path.

**"Waiting For Guffman"** (7/31 - 8/3, 8/7 - 8/10) – As a part of a small town's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, an off-Broadway (make that WAAY off-Broadway) director puts on a show detailing the town's history. His cast includes a dentist, an auto mechanic and a waitress from the local Dairy Queen, and he also invites a Broadway critic to view the performance. The movie is directed, written by and stars Christopher Guest, along with Eugene Levy, Brian-Doyle Murray and Bob Balaban.

**"Daytrippers"** (8/14 - 8/17, 8/21 - 8/24) – Eliza thought her marriage to Louis was a dream come true, but a puzzling love letter has set doubt in her mind. After coming to her mother for advice, she and other family members pile into a car to confront Louis with the letter. On the way, they meet a variety of interesting people and also find out a lot about one another. Stars include Hope Davis and Marcia Gay Harden.



COURTESY PHOTO

NICOLAS CAGE (left) and John Travolta lock horns in the John Woo-directed action thriller "Face-Off."

## Sequels, aliens dominate movie crop

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Yeow! The summer movie season has barely started, and already things are heating up. "The Lost World" and "Con-Air" are burning up the box-office, and even more hits are on the way. Sequels, aliens and presidential hijackings await anyone willing to pay six bucks to sit in a big, dark room with a bunch of strangers. Naturally, the movies aren't limited to what is on this list, and the release dates are subject to change.

### JUNE

**"Speed 2: Cruise Control"** (June 13) – Sandra Bullock is back, but with a new hubby (Jason Patric, "Sleepers") and the same ol' problems. Their romantic cruise hits troubled waters when a disgruntled ex-employee (Willem DaFoe) utilizes some computer relays and plastic explosives to work out his frustrations and try to kill everyone on board the ship. With director Jan DeBont at the helm, you can bet on plenty of action.

**"Batman and Robin"** (June 20) – George

Clooney ("From Dusk Till Dawn") dons the cape and cowl for the fourth installment in the "Batman" movies. Chris O'Donnell returns as the hot-blooded Robin, and with villains Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger) and Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman), the aid of new arrival Batgirl (Alicia Silverstone) will be invaluable. Expect loads of one-liners, and yes, all of the Bat-suits have Bat-nipples.

**"Hercules"** (June 27) – The Disney flick for the summer. Hercules is being tested, but Hades (deliciously voiced by James Woods) has other plans for the son of Zeus. Lots of yuks and inpromptu dance numbers in this one.

**"Face-Off"** (June 27) – Action-film director John Woo and John Travolta team up again after the highly-successful "Broken Arrow" for another explosive flick. This time, Travolta is an agent who, through the use of some wildly radical plastic surgery, literally wears the face of the criminal (Nicolas Cage) who killed his daughter. However, an identity switch ensues, and the chase is on. Expect an inordinate amount of action, bullets, explosions and testosterone just dripping off the screen.

### JULY

**"Men In Black"** (July 2) – With the release date of "Titanic" moved back to December, the fourth of July weekend is left wide open for this hit to stroll right up to the top spot. In this action/sci-fi/comedy, Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith play J and K, secret government agents who deal with extraterrestrial visitors and, of course, protecting the Earth, if not the entire galaxy.

**"Contact"** (July 11) – Jodie Foster comes into contact with an extraterrestrial source. She wants to join them, but a debate over her decision ensues. Lets just hope the aliens can keep her from stripping off her clothes in the moonlight this time around.

**"Air Force One"** (July 25) – Harrison Ford keeps moving up the political chain to the Presidency in "Air Force One." The President (Ford), who has been preaching a "no negotiations" policy with terrorism, finds himself in bad territory when his flight is hijacked in mid-air (led by Gary Oldman), and his family is placed in danger. Glenn Close co-stars as the vice-president, and Wolfgang Peterson ("In The Line of Fire") directs.

## Theater schedules don't stop for summer

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Live theater performances have been going on for centuries, so why stop for the summer? The Nebraska Repertory Theatre has been going on for over 30 seasons and is still going strong. Season tickets and show-times are available through the Nebraska Repertory Theatre Box Office, located in the Temple Building on 12<sup>th</sup> and R Streets.

**"The Fantasticks"** (playing through June 15<sup>th</sup>, Howell Theatre, Temple Building) – A musical celebrating life and love which has been playing for almost four decades now, "The Fantasticks" will touch something in everyone's hearts, from ages 8 to 80.

**"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"** (July 9 - 13, July 15 - 19, Carson Theater, Lied Center) – A troubled married couple share an evening of drinks with a couple of younger newlyweds, and as the evening progresses and the alcohol continues to flow, the true

human nature of everyone involved becomes dangerously evident.

**"The Foreigner"** (July 23 - 27, July 29 - August 2, Howell Theatre, Temple Building) – In rural Georgia, Charlie is a young man who's pathological shyness is mistaken for not understanding English. Once alone with members of the small town, Charlie overhears more than he should, including information from a two-faced minister, and a virtual cornucopia of other naughty bits. The comedic promise here is high.