

Music



COURTESY PHOTO
THE REVEREND HORTON HEAT'S lineup includes (from left to right) bassist Jimbo Wallace, guitarist/vocalist The Rev and drummer Scott Churilla.

Reverend Horton Heat
"Space Heater"
Interscope Records
Grade: B+

After taking a short break from its constant touring of the United States and beyond, the Reverend Horton Heat has released "Space Heater," a new album of 16 songs that the band completed in only 16 days.

Lead vocalist and guitarist Jim "The Rev. Horton" Heat said he wrote all of the album's tracks with a "devil-may-care attitude" during those 16 days. The session marked the first time that he hadn't worked out the songs before going into the studio.

During their recent concert at the Ranch Bowl on Feb. 1, the Rev, stand-up bassist Jimbo Wallace and drummer Scott Churilla gave Nebraskans a taste of the songs on "Space Heater" for the first time before the album's March 24 release date.

The Rev and his mates are known for their ability to capture their raw live sound on tape, and at the Ranch Bowl they played the songs with the same amount of intensity as they appear on the album.

A former Texas pool shark and juvenile delinquent, the Rev has always stuck to singing about what he knows best, whether it be preachin', lovin' or drinkin'.

And "Space Heater," like all of the Rev's past efforts, never misses a beat. The album kicks off with the instrumental "Pride of San Jacinto," a song about the spot where the Rev's home state of Texas won its independence from Mexico. The boys perform two more instrumentals on the record: "The Prophet Stomp," a nice little two-steppin' ditty, and the title track, which helps heat up the end of the record.

Some of the songs on the album have a south-of-the-border flavor, especially "San Jacinto," which sounds like it came straight out of an old "Rawhide" episode. The tracks "Mi Amor" and "Cinco de Mayo" are a few more examples of this Spanish influence. On these tracks, the Rev spits out some crafty Spanish lines that sound good even if you don't understand the language.

On the "Jimbo Song," the Rev represents his good friend and loyal sidekick, bassist Jimbo. A fun and catchy tune, the "Jimbo Song" shows us a little bit of Jimbo's life. "Slap bass bones, Rock-a-Billy ultra cool, J-I-M-B-O, Nature Boy Jimbo get in your pick-'em-up truck, go cruise around with lady luck," the Rev sings.

The lyrics on "Space Heater" offer listeners a sample of what the Rev's eyes see, such as on the self-explanatory "Baby I'm Drunk" and "Couch Surfin'," a song about the friend many people have who always takes as much as he can get.

There are still some of the Rev's characteristic rockabilly licks on "Space Heater," but the album isn't as thought-out as the band's previous four releases. The band is still a step above the rest, yet fans of their music have come to expect more than the album offers.

- Jim Zavodny

OSCAR

College Academy Awards commence at Ross Theater

junior

BY BRET SCHULTE
Assignment Reporter

"You can expect to see almost anything you can imagine."

- Dan Ladely
director of Mary Riepma
Ross Film Theater

More than two weeks ago, the members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences chose "Titanic" as the year's best film and crowned it with 10 other Oscars to boot.

But their work has just begun.

This week in Lincoln, the college Academy Awards nominees go through the first round of elimination.

Showing at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets, tonight through Sunday, these short films will be free to the public, and will be judged by a panel of local critics.

Rich Miller, the executive director of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, said the academy initiated the program 25 years ago to encourage young people to pursue the art of film.

"The academy felt it should be looking toward the future and should devise a way to recognize excellence in college filmmaking and encourage those filmmakers to continue," Miller said.

"It certainly has succeeded."

Indeed it has.

Past College Academy Award winners include Oscar winners Spike Lee and Robert Zemeckis, along with John Lasseter, who directed the animated family fantasy "Toy Story."

The program is divided into three sections, and Lincoln has been the home of the section-two preliminaries for 20 years. The honor was bestowed upon the city because of the Ross Theater's ambitious showing of independent films.

"The film program I run is well-known across the country as being the best of its kind," said

Ross Theater Director Dan Ladely.

For a film to qualify for competition, it must be made under a "teacher-student" relationship, Ladely said. Because no Nebraska school offers a program in creating film, there are no Nebraska candidates among the 41 states in division two.

Division one includes most states from the West and Northwest. Schools from New York and Puerto Rico comprise division three.

The films are judged in four categories: drama, documentary, alternative (experimental) and animated.

Judges are discouraged from critiquing on specific criteria but do follow a general guideline.

"Entries shall be judged on the basis of resourcefulness, originality, entertainment and production quality without regard to the cost of production or subject matter," said Dorene Johnson, who is helping to coordinate the event at the Ross Theater.

Although drama is historically the most popular category, Ladely said he enjoys documentaries the most. Last year's division-two documentary winner, "Walk This Way," told the autobiographical story of a pilot who broke his back during a tragic plane crash.

Chris Sheridan, who directed the film, went on to win the grand prize in Hollywood, receive the contest's \$2,000 prize and spend a week among famous studios and directors, making contacts and learning about the trade.

Although Lincoln won't be flooded by hopeful film students this weekend, Ladely said that many show up in Chicago during the second round of the competition.

From there the top handful of entries in each field will be sent to Hollywood to be viewed by the Academy itself.

But for once, Lincoln residents can view a movie long before Hollywood gets its hands on it.

The films are required to be less than an hour in length. Screen times are Thursday and Friday from 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.; and Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Ladely said these low-budget college efforts easily span the diversity that Hollywood produces.

"You can expect to see almost anything you can imagine," he said. "The subject matter, the technique is all over the board. There is always some good animation and some interesting documentary films."

"You can expect all kinds of stories in all kinds of ranges and quality."

