

Dropped Notes

Cather-inspired composer to produce radio program

She's not the first person to be inspired by a book, but she's the only one to see an opera in Willa Cather.

Libby Larsen, the composer of "Eric Hermansson's Soul," which is based on the Cather short story of the same name, will be sharing her talents with the residents of Cather's alma mater and former home.

The renowned American composer has been invited to Lincoln by Nebraska Public Radio Network to co-produce an entire day of programming, which will feature highlights of Larsen's career and include a live per-

formance of her five-part song cycle "Songs from Letters."

Renowned for her distinct love of American music, Larsen's work adds yet another dimension to the American patchwork of classic music. She cites influences from Bernstein and Copland as well as stride pianists such as Willie "The Lion" Smith.

Today's programming focuses largely on her influences and is designed to offer listeners an opportunity to experience the evolution of energetic American compositions.

Larsen received a Grammy Award in 1994 for the album, "The Art of Arlene Auger" and her opera makes its world-debut at Omaha's Rose Theatre on Nov. 17.

NPRN can be heard in Lincoln at 90.9 FM.

Latest vampire movie thirsty for originality

VAMPIRES from page 12

The rest of the movie fades away into a game of bloody hide-and-seek, punctuated only by Carpenter's lame attempt to introduce a romance between Montoya and Katrina.

What "Vampires" needs most is an injection of originality. The characters and images in this movie are age-old stereotypes, made worse by the ridiculously predictable Western motifs.

Crow lacks any significant, or even semi-interesting, dialogue. His John Wayne-like aphorisms involve more cuss words than actual content, and his comedy consists of phallic jokes made to a priest.

Lee's appearance as the beaten, bitten and whipped Katrina provides the only female presence in the film. Unfortunately, when she's not being exploited and manipulated by her male counterparts, she's shaking as if she has a bad case of delirium tremors.

Actresses were probably beating down Carpenter's door to play this ground-breaking female part.

In contrast, Baldwin's Montoya is supposed to be a man's man: loyal to his cause and courageous in the face of danger. However, Baldwin's dry, pretentious delivery leaves him detached from the rest of the characters.



COURTESY PHOTO
IN RURAL NEW MEXICO, Jack Crow (James Woods, center) leads members of Team Crow, a contingent of mercenaries sent by the Vatican to destroy a nest of vampires in John Carpenter's latest horror-adventure film "John Carpenter's Vampires."

And fierce loyalty to a cause never enters the picture. Baldwin gives his rage against the vampires less passion than the task of reading entries out of the telephone book.

The final character worth noting is Valek, the 600-year-old vampire with a vendetta against the Catholic church. While the actor's 6-foot-5 frame is

imposing on screen, his drawn-out screams and evil grins fail to hypnotize his victims or an audience. This vampire induces sleep more than he mesmerizes.

Overall, the only thing Carpenter accomplishes with "Vampires" is another flesh-filled, blood-drenched horror movie, devoid of innovation.

WILDERNESS PARK

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DENSMORE PARK BOND ISSUE

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Vote NO on Densmore Park, Nov. 3rd
Help Preserve Wilderness Park

Stone pushes TWA conspiracy theory

NEW YORK (AP) - Federal investigators say movie director Oliver Stone is producing more fiction than fact in an ABC special promoting the theory that a missile shot down TWA Flight 800.

James Kallstrom, who led the FBI investigation into the July 17, 1996, disaster, said Thursday there is no evidence of a missile attack.

"The real facts are glossed over by the likes of Mr. Stone and others who spend their life bottom-feeding in those small, dark crevices of doubt and hypocrisy," he said.

ABC News said the program, which has not yet been scheduled for broadcast, is as an entertainment special and not a traditional news story.

"There will be no confusion with the audience that this was in any way something ABC News was involved

in," said ABC News spokeswoman Eileen Murphy.

Despite an intensive two-year FBI investigation into the crash, Stone said he questions the results.

"You have to pay attention to what eyewitnesses saw," he said. "The streaks of light. There were a lot of witnesses, like the Kennedy assassination. A lot of people said bullets were fired from the grassy knoll. How could we ignore that? But we did."

TWA Flight 800 exploded minutes after takeoff from Kennedy International Airport, killing all 230 people on board.

Investigators initially thought a bomb, missile or mechanical malfunction could be responsible. The theory was supported by more than 200 witnesses told the FBI they saw streaks of light in the sky about the time the plane

exploded.

After months of analysis, however, investigators concluded the witnesses actually were seeing the plane disintegrating.

The investigators concluded that the center fuel tank exploded, but the National Transportation Safety Board has not yet identified the cause of the explosion.

"The notion that thousands of professional and courageous investigators ... who worked day and night for what was right are somehow part of a massive conspiracy is truly a story that could only be created by the warped fairy tale world of Oliver Stone," Kallstrom said.

Stone conceded an accident could have caused the crash but said a Navy long-range missile also could have brought down the plane.

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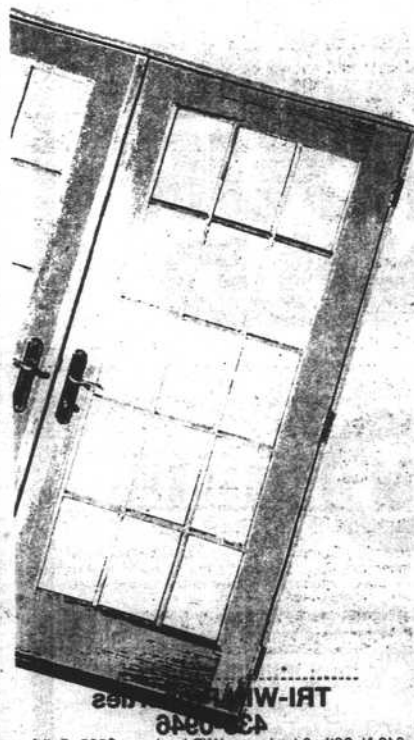
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