

# Exhibit depicts details of American Indian cultures

BY SARAH BAKER  
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The Midwest has a rich history, much of which owes a lot to the contributions of American Indians.

But sometimes their diversity and individual cultural heritages are overlooked.

"Edward S. Curtis' Photographs of Plains Indians," opening at the Great Plains Art Collection today, does much to separate the American Indian culture into many unique facets.

The exhibit, which the Great Plains Art collection has been collaborating on for more than a year, consists of photos specially selected from Curtis' large body of work.

Martha Kennedy, curator of the Great Plains Art Collection, said this exhibit is one with special meaning for the museum, which is devoted in part to celebrating the culture of the Midwest.

Curtis' photographs focus on everyday activities that portray the normal lives of Plains Indians.

The photos are known for legitimizing the idea that the American Indians are a disappearing race and also that they are truly "noble savages."

Kennedy said the works all have a common, connecting theme that gives the show added

meaning.

"These photos reflect the great diversity within the Indian culture," she said. "Often there is a tendency to generalize, but within this collection there is great variety."

The collection consists of images of landscapes, portraits, housing and scenes of everyday life and ceremonial tradition.

The show has a wide appeal, and Kennedy said she thinks students, especially those studying history, anthropology or ethnic studies, will especially take an interest in the art.

"I hope viewers are stimulated to learn more about these people," she said.

In accordance with the exhibit, the gallery also is presenting an accompanying symposium Nov. 13 and 14.

The symposium will feature speakers with expertise on Curtis as well as other photographers of the Midwest.

The exhibit opens today at the Great Plains Art Collection, 215 Love Library, 13<sup>th</sup> and R streets on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

The gallery is open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Both the exhibit and the symposium are free and open to the public.

For more information, call the gallery at (402) 472-3802.



COURTESY ART  
EDWARD SHERIFF CURTIS opens his exhibit "Photographs of Plains Indians" Wednesday at the Great Plains Art Collection in Love Library. He will host a symposium on his work Nov. 13 and 14; pre-registration is advised.

## 'Teena' perpetuates too many stereotypes

BRANDON from page 9

Nebraska: most speak with bad grammar, and, in some cases, their speech is littered with profanities and hateful remarks.

Only two of the speakers in the film, excluding Brandon's mother, seemed to have any empathy for her situation, and even then they seemed to feel that her demise as a result of intolerance was unavoidable.

But the people featured in the movie aren't the only elements lacking a fair portrayal.

Most of the scenic shots of Nebraska aren't exactly pretty and include pictures of the seediest parts of downtown Lincoln and Falls City. These hideous shots are then contrasted with barren snow-covered fields surrounding Falls City - leaving one with a sense of complete desolation and a bad taste in the mouth for Nebraska and its residents.

The accompanying twangy, tinny soundtrack also doesn't help and only stands to reinforce the aforementioned stereotypes that Nebraskans already face - while also annoying the viewer.

The film as a whole has an unflattering and unwelcoming feel to it, but the story it tells is by no means a happy one, making the desolate pictures almost too obvious.

The brutal murder and amazing ignorance of the people who lived in the town make one realize how things as horrible as hate crimes can happen as often as they do.

Most of the people in the film had no problems using words such as "fag" or "dyke" to describe Brandon, and interviews with the two convicted murderers only added to the overwhelming ignorance the film so delights in perpetuating.

But if the ignorance of the murderers wasn't enough, the stupidity of the law-enforcement officials made up for it, and then some.

In numerous scenes, the film lets the viewer listen in on interviews between police officers and Brandon preceding his impending death that are more than outrageous.

The police official repeatedly asks Brandon questions not even remotely pertaining to the matter at hand, namely Brandon's rape.

Most of the questions center on Brandon's own personal sexual encounters outside of the rape and become quite offensive and explicit, yet at the same time continue to show that overwhelming ignorance through their sheer inappropriateness.

Stories such as this most definitely need to be heard, but it is questionable that this film actually makes any headway in doing so.

### The Facts

Title: "The Brandon Teena Story"  
Director: Susan Muska, Greta Olafsdottir  
Rating: NR  
Grade: C  
Five Words: Anti-hate film purveys stereotypes

The horrible tragedy that ended Brandon's life is presented convincingly, but at the same time it actively portrays Nebraska as a state full of trashy, homophobic chain-smokers who have zero tolerance for anything less than "white bread."

The film is an indictment of the entire state and its people based on a small nucleus of intolerance, save for one or two open-minded people who never take action.

The idea that Nebraskans would want to see a film that so blatantly perpetuates everything they would normally stand against is another taste of bitter irony.

A film like this one presumably has good intentions, but when it ends up reinforcing more negative ideas than it chastises, it's hard to justify the Ross playing two extra screenings.

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