

# Daring films lead Ross schedule

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people as it repulses.

Another equally disturbing film will make its Lincoln debut on March 4, when Todd Solondz's "Happiness" opens at the Ross. Solondz, who also directed "Welcome to the Dollhouse," has received a fair share of criticism and praise for his unflinching portrayal of suburbia and its disaffected residents. "Happiness" is no exception. The film's character roster includes an obscene phone caller, a girl who is addicted to kindness and a pedophile. Because of its subject matter and Solondz's refusal to alter the final product, "Happiness" was dropped by its film studio after completion and was distributed independently. It still managed to make several critics' top 10 lists for 1998.

Another top film of 1998 was actually made 40 years ago. "Touch of Evil," a twisted take on film noir by Orson Welles, made it back to screens last year in a new form. According to Welles, the original version of "Touch of Evil" was butchered by Universal Pictures

Marc Levin's "Slam" promises to be another highlight. Levin brings his cinema verite documentary style to a fictitious tale in the story of Ray Joshua, a black poet whose life is changed during a stay in prison. Levin's examination of art and ingenuity as a means for existence and survival is pushed along by an inexperienced but extraordinary cast. "Slam" was roundly praised at the Sundance Film Festival and was another popular choice for critics' best-of-the-year lists. It opens Feb. 18.

The University Program Council will present another round of world-wide films with its International Film Series this semester.

The series opens



COURTESY PHOTO  
**TOM WILKINSON AND Minnie Driver star in "The Governess," a British film set on a Scottish isle in the 1940s. Driver plays a Jewish woman hiding her identity and struggling with her love for a devoutly Christian man.**



COURTESY PHOTO  
**DIRECTED BY Shohei Imamura, "The Eel" has been billed as a quirky comedy, offbeat romance and surreal fantasy.**

when it was first released. With the aid of a written directive by Welles, producer Rick Schmidlin and editor Walter Murch have restored and re-edited the film according to Welles' wishes. "Touch of Evil" opens Feb. 4.

Jan. 31 with "The Governess," a love story set in the mid-19th century. Minnie Driver stars as a Jewish woman who poses as a Gentile in order to get a job and finds herself

falling in love with her decidedly Christian boss.

Other high points of the International Film Series include Manuel Poirier's "Western," a French road movie, and Japanese director Shohei Imamura's "The Eel," a winner of the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. A restored version of Federico Fellini's "Nights of Cabiria" will also make an appearance April 25.

Spring at the Ross Theater means Student Academy Awards, and this year is no exception. Preliminary judging for Region Two in the 26th annual competition will run April 1-4 at the Ross. Admission to all films in the competition is free, and schedules will be available as the event nears.

Screening times for all films can be obtained by dialing the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater box office at (402) 472-5353. The Ross is in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery at 12th and R streets.

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**A&E Briefs**

## Connery says Britain lacks class for slight

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)— Sean Connery still sounds sore about being passed over for one of Britain's highest honors — knighthood.

"I think it lacks class on their part," the Scottish-born actor was quoted as saying in Monday's Glasgow Evening Times.

The Scottish National Party accused the British government in February of rejecting Connery because he is a longtime advocate of independence for Scotland.

The Scottish National Party, which Connery supports, is battling for seats in the 129-member Scottish Assembly, which will be elected in May. If the national party wins the most seats, it has promised to seek a referendum on full independence within four years.

Connery told the newspaper that it was "strange" how he'd played a knight in his latest film, "The Avengers."

Describing the character of Sir August De Wynter as "a scoundrel, a blackmailer and a cheat," Connery said: "It makes you wonder at times what exactly is the criteria to qualify."

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