

Blue Barn features Buñuel films

BY DANELL MCCOY
Staff writer

His films pushed surrealism into the world of cinematography and garnered Spanish director Luis Buñuel global attention for his work.

On January 15-17, the Blue Barn Theatre, 614 S 11th St. in Omaha's Old Market, will show a double feature of Buñuel's films.

The first film will be a 1932 documentary about the Las Hurdes district in Spain. Named after the region, the film's English translation is "Land Without Bread." While Buñuel emphasizes the region's brutal nature, he also shows the people, who receive pleasure from things that many take for granted.

"Land Without Bread is fascinating in a cruel way," said Kevin Lawler, an employee at the Blue Barn. "The way they shot the footage is callous and speaks of people in a cold, (yet) compassionate way."

The second film, "The Exterminating Angel," is a satirical commentary on Spain's upper class during dictator Generalissimo Francisco Franco's reign. It was filmed in the 1960s in Mexico and is about a group of dinner guests who find themselves unable to leave the party. As days pass, the guests find themselves regressing to a barbarian state.

"The acting is phenomenal," said Lawler. "The way he shows the upper class' manners fall to barbaric gives you an interesting look on our society."

Black comedy brings out the guest's absurdity, along with a flourish of surrealism. It stars Silvia Pinal, Jacqueline Andere and Enrique Garcia Alvarez.

Max Barber, cultural editor for The Reader, was the one who proposed the idea of the Buñuel film series to the Blue Barn Theatre.

The acting troupe embraced the idea. Since it takes the theater a month to put a play together, they had plenty of time and space to show films in between. Buñuel's film series is the Blue Barn's second



COURTESY PHOTO
LUIS BUÑUEL (LEFT) sits with Salvador Dalí, his friend and fellow surrealist. The two worked together on Buñuel's most famous film, 1928's "Un Chien Andalou."

selection.
The films begin at 8:00 p.m. General admission is \$5. Call (402) 345-1576 for more information.

Hobnobbers sponsors wine-tasting party

BY JASON HARDY
Staff writer

Nothing broadens one's social and professional contacts like a night of drinking.

And nobody appreciates a night of drinking quite like the Lincoln area group known as the Hobnobbers, a philanthropic and social-networking group composed of young professionals, graduate students and professionally minded undergraduates in the Lincoln area.

The group is sponsoring a wine-tasting party Thursday night at the Blue Heron Wine Bar and Bistro, 5555 S. 48th St. However, along with the event's tasty array of Italian wines, the Hobnobbers are offering attendees some cultural education as well.

Ken Meier, owner of the Blue Heron Wine Bar and Bistro as well as Meier's Cork and Bottle, 13th and South streets, will be explaining some of the different characteristics of six or seven featured wines such as which wines complement certain foods as well as regional information and interesting facts about each wine.

Jessica Kennedy, director of fundraising and intern director of public relations, said the group has held wine tasting parties in the past that turned out to be great successes, both in terms of social interaction and education.

"I'm frequently at dinners with peers and I don't know anything about wine, so this is helpful in a way you wouldn't ever have suspected," Kennedy said.

She said that since the group's inception three years ago the Hobnobbers have helped young professionals meet and interact with other like-minded people in the Lincoln professional community while supporting local and national charity organizations at the same time.

Co-founder Brenden Polt said the idea for Hobnobbers grew

from what he saw as a lack of interaction between young Lincoln professionals.

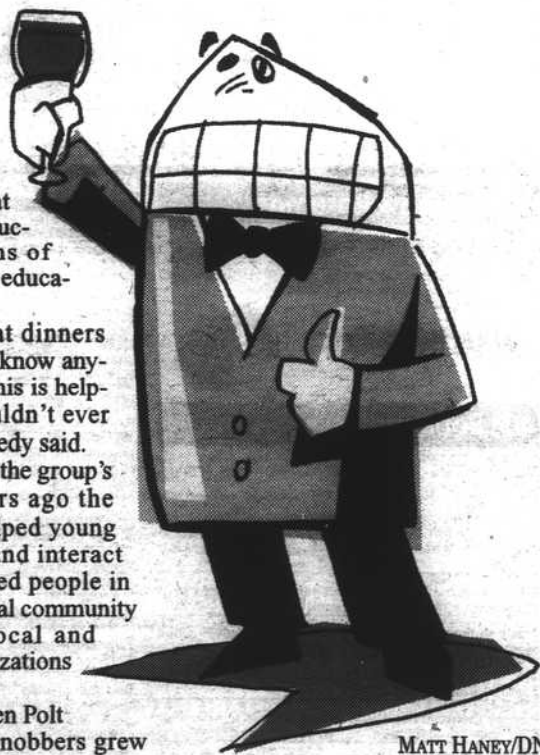
"We recognized that there was no young professional community in Lincoln," Polt said. "A lot of people get out of college, go to work and only associate with co-workers."

He said the Hobnobbers helped bring together a number of different people in different fields who never would have met otherwise.

Kennedy agrees. "You just meet all kinds of people in a lot of different areas," she said. "And there's not really a 'topic of discussion' because everybody is so different. We talk about everything."

While many of the Hobnobbers' events are private to members only, Thursday's wine-tasting party is open to anybody who wishes to attend. For more information about the Hobnobbers and how to join, check out the Web site at <http://www.hobnobbers.org>.

The wine-tasting party, at the Blue Heron Wine Bar and Bistro, is open to anyone of legal drinking age, costs \$15 and lasts from 7 to 10 p.m.



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