

# Production brings together mesh of cultures in theater

By CHRISTOPHER HEINE  
Staff writer

The message of Martin Luther King Jr. didn't stop Monday.

"Junebug/Jack: A Play of Stories and Songs from Two Cultures" will offer music, dance and storytelling this week about places and people as starkly different as black and white.

The multidimensional production brings together the tag-teaming perspective of Junebug and Jack.

The two mythical folk characters were created by two Southern companies, New Orleans' Junebug Theater Project and the Roadside Theater of Appalachian Kentucky, respectively.

A cappella harmonies, blues and banjo ballads are a few of the ways the group communicates the message of cultural understanding through the use of the two characters.

Ron Bowlin, director of the Artist Diversity Program, said "Junebug/Jack" makes for a healthy combination of entertainment and education.

"The show is very funny, poignant and entertaining," Bowlin said. "But there is a really strong message there about everyone living together as one people."

The coming together of a predominantly white ensemble from Kentucky and a predominantly black group from Louisiana serves as an example for the show's message of racial harmony.

The groups saw each other per-

form in 1981 and have worked together periodically ever since.

Norah Goebel-George, marketing director for the Lied Center, said the two groups blend together well.

"There's never been a project more unique and interesting to come into our building," said Goebel-George.

She said the Lied was "thrilled" to have the ensemble.

"One of our missions is to provide the state with cultural events they wouldn't normally get," she said.

"This is one of those events."

"Junebug/Jack" is a 75-minute collage of tall tales, historical anecdotes and the aforementioned hodgepodge of art forms. The production will be performed Wednesday and

Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Carson Theater.

Goebel-George said the Lied Center was fortunate to have "Junebug/Jack" in time for the King holiday.

"Although the act is definitely entertaining, this type of performance is more about expanding minds than entertainment," she said.

"Their attempt to mesh black and white cultures together hopefully will help those in attendance to think in a new way."

Bowlin agreed that the "Junebug/Jack" cast has a "deep commitment to human rights" and described the performance as "serious and moving."

"They have a real special way of communicating, through stories and songs, the horrors of injustice," he said.

## Lied Center The Facts

What: Junebug/Jack: A Play of Stories and Songs From Two Cultures

Where: Johnny Carson Theatre

When: Wed. and Thurs. at 8 p.m.

Cost: \$20 for non-students

\$10 for students

The Sidny: Southern groups merge black and white culture



# 'Line' offers brutal war account Cast features Penn, Nolte, Cusack in heroic film

By JEFF RANDALL  
Senior staff writer

The war movie has been a film-makers' mainstay for many years.

As humankind's most depraved and glorified act, war has been an inspiration for vehicles that initiate flag-waving and protests alike.

"The Thin Red Line" is the latest entry in the category. Based on the autobiographical 1962 novel by James Jones, "The Thin Red Line" takes place during the American invasion of Guadalcanal in World War II.

Terrence Malick, a long-time Hollywood recluse, wrote and directed the film, which features a bevy of testosterone-riddled talents. Most notable are Sean Penn, John Cusack and Ben Chaplin.

And although acting plays a significant part in this film's effectiveness, most of the credit should be given to Malick.

"The Thin Red Line" succeeds because Malick shows no restraint or remorse in his depiction of soldiers' wartime mentality. The result is a film that combines the raving madness of war films such as "Apocalypse Now" and "Full Metal Jacket" with the virtuoso visual techniques of Akira Kurosawa.

Malick eschews traditional storytelling and relies instead on a series of

haunting character vignettes and lingering images that say more than any mere line of dialogue could muster.

Soldiers march into certain death and stare in wonder as a lone native man walks past them in the opposite direction. A bird torn to shreds by gunfire writhes on the ground, desperately clinging to life. An alligator sinks into a murky river and later emerges slain by soldiers.

Malick doesn't need to have a char-

acter say "War is hell" or offer a sermon on the madness of violence. Malick lets the images do the talking for him.

Throughout the film, soldiers speak in voice-over monologue, confessing their fears and revealing their tricks for staying sane in the midst of a world torn apart.

Sean Penn's character relies on the philosophy of insignificance and self-reliance. Nick Nolte plays a career-

mind military man who sees the war as a means to a promotion. Ben Chaplin pushes himself forward with memories of the wife he left behind. John Cusack is the brave but reluctant hero.

Each character represents a different aspect of the war experience and offers up his own conclusions and self-contradictions. And in doing so, Malick manages to put forth a film in which nothing makes sense but everything seems to fit together perfectly.

"The Thin Red Line" challenges its audience in ways that most modern-day directors can't even recognize. It not only entertains, but also inspires and instigates.

It's been 20 years since Malick released his last film, "Days of Heaven." With "The Thin Red Line," he simultaneously makes us realize why it took him two decades to make another film and hope he won't take so long the next time around.



BEN CHAPLIN as Bell, John Cusack as Gaff and Jim Caviezel as Witt plan an attack on a bunker that has pinned down their unit in "The Thin Red Line." The film is Malick's first since "Days of Heaven" made in 1978.

COURTESY PHOTO

## The Facts

Title: "The Thin Red Line"

Stars: Sean Penn, Nick Nolte, Ben Chaplin, Jim Caviezel

Director: Terrence Malick

Rating: R (language, violence)

Grade: A

Five Words: Terrence Malick is back ... finally



Preoccupied with food, weight, body image or dieting?

Talk with us. We can help.

Eating Issues Support Group  
Weekly on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 20  
Women's Center, Nebraska Union 338  
4:00 - 5:00 pm  
Call Tricia, 472-2597

Making Peace with Food  
Wednesdays, Feb. 10 - Apr. 7  
3:30 - 4:45 pm  
University Health Center, Room D  
Must register, call Sue, 472-7450  
or Karen, 472-7478

Accepting Our Bodies...  
Accepting Ourselves  
I. Tuesdays, Feb. 2 - Mar. 9  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m., Nebraska Union 213  
II. Mar. 23 - Apr. 27  
Time and Place TBA  
Must register, call Norma, 472-7450  
\$40 fee

Improving Body Image  
Tuesdays, Feb. 9 - Apr. 6  
3:00 - 4:30 pm  
Women's Center, Nebraska Union 338  
Must register, call Sue, 472-7450

Call Counseling & Psychological Services  
for more information at 472-7450.

WIN FREE COMPUTER!

COURTESY OF collegestudent.com

**IDOT**  
XTREME STUDENT SYSTEM

Here's What To Do:

- 1) LOG ON TO COLLEGESTUDENT.COM
- 2) SELECT YOUR SCHOOL
- 3) GO TO THE 'COMPUTER STORE'
- 4) Enter to win the XTREME STUDENT SYSTEM from IDOT and collegestudent.com

CONTEST ENDS JANUARY 31ST

FREE PERSONALS

FREE E-MAIL

**HEY CORNHUSKERS!**  
WELCOME BACK!

CHECK OUT OUR CHAT AT

WWW.COLLEGESTUDENT.COM/NEBRASKA

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR SOUTH PADRE ISLAND SPRING BREAK SECTION!

COLLEGESTUDENT.COM  
-YOUR ONLINE CAMPUS COMMUNITY-

Nobody Does Breaks Better!

**SPRING BREAK**

"gonna party it's 1999!"

**HURRY!**

DRIVE YOURSELF & SAVE!

Book a Group of 20 and Break Free!

18th Sellout Year!

**PANAMA CITY BEACH**

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**

**STEAMBOAT**

**DAYTONA BEACH**

**PARTY**

1-800-SUNCHASE

www.sunchase.com