

# Native Talent

*Artistic Differences*  
An ongoing look at ethnic contributions to Nebraska state culture.

Artist shares strong message of diversity

BY JEFF RANDALL  
Senior writer

When a guest lecturer steps into a classroom, most students take the opportunity to slouch submissively into their desks or surreptitiously creep out of the room.

But when Linda Anfuso is that lecturer, such behavior is difficult to get away with. Racism, sexism and countless other "-isms" are discussed, challenged and debated; apathy is not an option.

"She just shocked me," undeclared sophomore Michael Brandt said. "I've never seen somebody grab a classroom like that and refuse to let go."

Brandt is one of the thousands of students to whom Anfuso has spoken at universities all over the United States and abroad. She has been an active member of the UNL Artist Diversity in Residence program for five years, spending weeks at a time in Lincoln sharing her experiences with students.

And Anfuso, now in the middle of a six-week residency, will be doing it again tonight at 8 in Avery 217, when she speaks to a mass media class. Race and gender issues will be the order of the evening, and Anfuso promised a frank and eye-opening discussion – but for students who have been lucky enough to have Anfuso visit their classrooms, that is nothing new.

She has spoken to students under a variety of occupational hats – as a writer, painter, businesswoman, poet and teacher, just to name a few.

"Ever since I was very young, I've been interested in a variety of things," Anfuso said. "And instead of buying into the idea of specialty, I've spent my



life exploring all of them."

A self-made renaissance woman in both theory and practice, Anfuso is not content to keep her talents to herself. She has published her poetry in two books – "Stolen Daughter" and "Red Coat and Other Poems" – and her visual artistry has been published in the form of "Palette of Period Pigments." She is currently working on a book that will teach young jewelry makers how to market their creations.

But art is not her only form of

expression.

Her mind is filled with issues that many students refuse to acknowledge. Anfuso takes her confrontational brand of politics and education directly to the students through her lectures and discussions. Most of these discussions center on – for lack of a better term – the politics of inequality.

"You have to talk about these things, because ignoring them obviously hasn't made them go away," she said.

Anfuso knows about such issues

firsthand. She was born and spent the first few years of her life on the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation in upstate New York. When she was 3 years old, she was taken from the reservation and her family and placed in a foster home.

"I remember some things about (St. Regis) very clearly," Anfuso said. "I remember my room. I remember my grandmother."

It was soon after leaving the reserva-

DANIEL LUEDERT/DN  
Linda Anfuso, from Wilton, N.H., gazes over her artist's table she has set up on her sixth-floor apartment in Lincoln. Anfuso is on campus to educate students on Mohawk culture.

Please see ARTIST on 10

## 'Cruel Intentions' a medley of sexual conquest

The new movie contains deceit, sex and money, to provide a dramatic twist.

BY DIANE BRODERICK  
Staff writer

If "Cruel Intentions" intends to cash in on camp value, its makers knew exactly what they were doing.

But even if they didn't intend the kitsch, the film is just as enjoyable – only at its own expense.

Set in an elite, Manhattan world of rich teens who go to an upper-crust private school, the film delights in setting up beautiful and sexy, but clichéd characters in various sexual scenarios.

"Cruel Intentions," an update on the same novel "Dangerous Liaisons" was based on, puts new twists on the familiar story.

Kathryn Merteuil (Sarah Michelle Gellar) and Sebastian Valmont (Ryan Phillippe) are bored, rich step-siblings who play mental and sexual games with their high-school counterparts.

Kathryn and Sebastian have parents

whom they talk about, but are on holiday for the entire film, which makes it possible for these manipulative teens to pull off their act.

These two function as adults in their own right. They live in a mansion with a host of Victorian touches. Sebastian has a classic car and an office that would be the envy of most top-level executives, and Kathryn sports an expensive designer wardrobe, even if it leans toward the trashy side.

The step-siblings adore hatching nefarious schemes that make others bend to their will. In their games, lust is often their method, but power is what they truly seek.

Sebastian totes his prized possession, a journal containing notes on all of his conquests. But the difference between him and his step-sister is that he has a reputation – apparently every girl he's ever seduced has regretted it.

Kathryn hides her contempt for almost everyone behind an angelic face. No one seems to realize what evil thoughts lurk behind her smile, especially not any adults.

Two innocent, virginal targets walk right into Sebastian and Kathryn's lives.

### Film Review

#### The Facts

Title: "Cruel Intentions"  
Stars: Sarah Michelle Gellar, Ryan Phillippe, Reese Witherspoon  
Director: Roger Kumble  
Rating: R  
Grade: B  
Five Words: Film succeeds at kitsch humor

Cecile Caldwell (Selma Blair) is a new transfer student whose mother wants Kathryn, the student body president, to show her the ropes.

And Annette Hargrove (Reese Witherspoon) is the new headmaster's daughter who has written a manifesto in Seventeen magazine entitled "Why I Plan to Wait," a dare too tantalizing to pass up.

Kathryn has reasons for vengeance against Cecile, and Sebastian can't wait to take on the daunting task of deflowering the virtuous virgin. A plot is hatched that hinges on sex and deception.

And from this point on, the film succeeds in some fabulous camp. Gellar, in



COURTESY PHOTO  
KATHRYN (SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR) and Sebastian (Ryan Phillippe) are con-niving stepsiblings caught up in a wealthy farcical world of sexual intrigue in "Cruel Intentions."

a turn from her saving-the-world role as Buffy the Vampire Slayer, is never less than a bitch. And Phillippe's pouty take on a sexual predator flows naturally after a few beginning scenes where the

seams on his evil treachery show through.

Witherspoon contrasts the evil two

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