

The Weekend in Preview

The following is a brief guide to weekend events. Please call venues for more information.

CONCERTS:

Duffy's, 1412 O St.
Sunday: Exit 159 with Meelee

Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.
Friday: Hood Furgarwa
Saturday: Blues Mechanics

Johnny Carson Theatre, 12th and R streets
Friday: Stefan Milenkovich, 8 p.m.

Knickerbockers, 901 O St.
Friday: The Mediums, Assbackwards
Saturday: Luck of Aleia, The Faint, Her Flyaway Manner

Mo Java Cafe, 2649 N. 48th St., Suite D
Friday: Pheremon Folk

The Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway
Friday: Self-Righteous Brothers

Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.
Friday and Saturday: Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials
Sunday: Benefit concert for Wilderness Park

THEATER:

Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St.
All weekend: "City of Angels"

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, 12th and R streets
All weekend: "Happiness"

Museum of Nebraska History, 15th and P streets
Sunday: "Silk Stockings" starring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Studio Theatre, Temple Building, 12th and R streets
Friday and Saturday: "Midsummer Night's Dream"

Wagon Train Project, 504 S. Seventh St.
Friday and Saturday: "6 X 12"

GALLERIES:

Burkholder Project, 719 P St.
Friday and Saturday: "Sandhills Invitational"

Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.
All weekend: Recent works by M.L. Moseman, Christopher Payne, Pat Schemmer and Mary Springer

Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St., Suite A
Friday and Saturday: "Beauty at my Feet," featuring the art of Carol Rustad

Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.
Friday and Saturday: Oil paintings by Faridun Negmet Zoda, twig pottery by Tony Guido

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets
All weekend: "UNL Studio Faculty Biennial Exhibition"

Meaningful GESTURES

Competition 'sounds like' fun for aficionados of charades

BY JEFF RANDALL
Senior staff writer

When Ann Peters isn't taking phone calls in her office, she can be found jotting down the names of obscure songs and books.

When Mike Peters picks up a copy of "TV Guide," the first thing he notices is the long film titles.

And when Sen. David Landis is behind closed doors, one can only suspect what goes on.

These people are linked by a common love in the form of a common game. And during this time of the year that love takes on a larger weight.

They are charades players, and the Nebraska State Winter Charades Competition is knocking on their doors.

This annual event pits some of Nebraska's most talented players against each other in a heated competition to determine who can communicate the most without uttering a single word.

"I practice every chance I get," said Mike Peters, a five-time participant in the competition. "But for the past few weeks, I've been making time to practice."

A traditional parlor game, charades is a favorite of pop culture junkies who have filled their heads with a virtual encyclopedia of titles to films, songs, books and plays.

When accompanied by an enthusiastic crowd and — on occasion — a few drinks, though, the game can become a frenzied flurry of hands, arms, legs and

shouted answers.

Sen. David Landis, who speaks from the lofty perspective of past state championships, broke down the attributes of a great charades player.

"You have to have wasted your life watching a lot of movies. And if you've read a book, it helps."

But charades is not only an exciting and engaging waste of time. For many actors, it is a basic training technique.

Ann Peters, who spent several years of her life on stage throughout high school and college, said charades can be educational.

"A lot of people have come to rely on verbal communication," she said. "But



MELANIE FALK/DN

Culture The Facts

What: Nebraska State Winter Charades Competition
Where: Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St.
When: Saturday (practice at 12:30 p.m., competition starts at 1 p.m.)
Cost: Registration is \$20 per team, 4 or 5 players per team
The Sidny: Parlor game gets serious, but stays fun

when you play charades, you can't use words, and you learn how to get things across to people in another way.

"It's almost educational."

Almost educational, though.

There is a code known only to the most avid

players of the game. The obvious gestures to tell whether your clue is a book, song, film, television show or play are one set. The syllable gestures and

"sounds like" signals are equally common.

But for advanced players, the use of invisible alphabets — signalled with any array of body parts — is a valuable tool. Small words such as "and," "the," "it" and "of" have their own signals, as well.

It is almost an underground society, in which titles such as "Bird Dream of the Olympus Mons" (a song) and "Mystery Science Theater 3000" (a TV show) demand a certain air of reverence. They are the hard-ball clues, the ones that only a select few charades players can manage to pull from their teammates.

Anyone can do "Moon River." Or "War and Peace." Not anyone can work with "Even Cowgirls Get the Blues," particularly in the allotted three minutes.

"One time I had to get somebody to say 'orange,' and no matter what I did I couldn't get them to say it," Ann Peters said.

But frustration and practice and research aside, charades is mostly just plain fun. And the Winter Charades Competition is no exception.

"It's a fast-paced, fun afternoon to be involved in," Landis said. "If you're an expert, or even if you're a beginner, it's just a lot of fun."

OK, now say that with hand signals.

Poundstone brings fun act

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior staff writer

"I often wonder if my perpetual sense of impending doom was caused by those Dick and Jane books we were forced to read as kids," Paula Poundstone wrote in a 1997 column for "Mother Jones" magazine.

"What was Dick always running from? And why did he have to be told twice?" she asked.

The comedian, whose columns have appeared in "Mother Jones" since 1993, has become famous for her off-kilter view of the world.

On Monday, Poundstone will present her plucky but down-to-earth brand of comedy at O'Donnell Auditorium, 50th Street and Huntington Avenue.

Poundstone rose to fame in the comedy-wild 1980s. Sporting a page-boy bob and a colorful suit, Poundstone forsook the usual female comic diatribe about relationships, diet, sex and men. Instead, she took on the perplexing intricacies of Pop-Tarts and party politics.

Some of her columns for "Mother

Culture The Facts

What: Paula Poundstone
Where: O'Donnell Auditorium, 50th St. and Huntington Ave.
When: Monday at 9 p.m.
Cost: \$6
The Sidny: Observational humorist brings comments to Lincoln



COURTESY PHOTO
THE EMBODIMENT of 1980s wit (and fashion) Paula Poundstone appears in Lincoln on Monday.

Jones" cover topics such as: "Spam I Am: The story behind America's favorite mystery meat," "Be Like Gandhi: I realize my efforts are much smaller. He liberated India. I let people in in traffic" and "Poli-sci with Paula: Senator Simon is too much of a gentleman to be president. When I offered him five bucks to shove a kid off a ride, he didn't even consider it."

Poundstone has done two specials for HBO, "Cats, Cops and Stuff" and "Paula Poundstone Goes to Harvard." The first won her a CableAce Award for Best Stand-up Comedy Special in 1992.

Between gigs, Poundstone is

working on a new animated series titled "Home Movies," which draws on her experience as a single mother and foster parent.

The comedian also signed a deal for her first book, a collection of humorous essays.

Dropped Notes

Emo-hardcore to rock Knickerbocker's

-Luck of Aleia will bring its roller coaster combination of pretty rock 'n' roll and emo-hardcore roots to Knickerbocker's, 901 O St., Saturday night in honor of its new self-titled compact disc.

LOA is led by Lincoln punk rock pioneer Bernie McGinn, known for his work in old local favorites Baby Hotline, Peer Puppet and Sideshow, and his sole proprietorship of Caulfield Records.

McGinn's most notable musical accomplishment, Sideshow, has been lauded by the underground press for its strong rhythms and machine of spirituality sound.

The singer's new band has spent a portion of the past year touring Midwest cities, such as Madison, Wis., Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City, Mo.

LOA will be the last of a three-band bill Saturday night, playing after Omaha's The Faint. Young Lincoln upstarts Her Flyaway Manner will open up the 10 p.m. show.

Tickets are \$3.