

## Organization aids Nebraska filmmakers

BY JOSH KRAUTER  
Senior staff writer

In 1991, a group of Lincoln video- and filmmakers got together to complain.

They were tired of running into brick walls when they tried to raise money for their projects. And if they were able to raise funds, they were tired of financial backers who didn't understand how films were made, how much money was needed or what the film's intent was.

The Nebraska Independent Film Projects began after this meeting. Ever since, the organization has been helping video and filmmakers raise money, providing a place to show films and educating the public about film and video.

The organization is nonprofit, which helps the filmmakers raise money, said Lori Vidlak, president of the NIFP.

"When you try to raise money, you have to be aligned with a nonprofit organization to get grant money," she said.

Dorothy Booraem, secretary for the organization, said the NIFP has grown considerably in the two years she has been a member. She said the NIFP now encompasses art, experimental, narrative and animated films as well as documentaries.

Vidlak said the NIFP acts as a support group of sorts for people interested in film.

"Older people tell the younger people how to do things. There's even a 10-year-old kid who comes to the meetings with his mother." "He's crazy about it," Booraem said.

In addition to building a support network for local filmmakers, the NIFP holds occasional workshops and seminars. Two recent workshops have featured film industry veterans. Lou Hunter, a screenwriting professor at UCLA, drew a crowd of 105, Vidlak said.

"That drew so many people because everyone's got a screenplay," Booraem said.

Fred Ginsberg, soundman for "St. Elsewhere," also taught a workshop. Now, NIFP is planning a workshop teaching the basics of set lighting for video shoots to show what can be accomplished with a tight budget.

"It's about what you can buy at Menard's and jerry rig," Booraem said. "How can you create fancy movie effects with just things you can find in your house?"

One upcoming event, however, is just for fun. The second annual "Mad Movie Night," which is being billed as "Son of Mad Movie Night," is being screened at the 7th Street Loft, 504 S. Seventh St., on Thursday. The screenings are at 7 and 9 p.m., and admission is \$2.

"Mad Movie Night" is made up of a collection of short films, local and national, that Vidlak and Booraem say are humorous and bizarre.

"We encourage squealing and catcalls," Booraem said. Films shown include "The Eternal Struggle," "Commander Cody," "Frog Pituitary" and "Slugs and Bugs."

"The whole thing's based on goofiness," Vidlak said.

Vidlak and Booraem have had to deal with far more than goofiness in their film careers. Booraem has made videos for the Nebraska Humanities Council and worked in the art department for two independent films, "Redneck" and "Days Gone By," as well as a television movie starring Jamie Lee Curtis.

Vidlak, a documentary filmmaker for public television, has had her share of experience, too. While filming a documentary in Mexico, she got a full body rash, and that was only the beginning of her problems. When she and the rest of the film crew tried to cross the border back into the United States, customs wanted to open the film cans to see if they were hiding any drugs. This would have exposed the film, and the entire documentary would have been lost. Vidlak said the crew finally talked the customs officials out of the check, but it was a close call.

"There's so much stress, but it gives you good stories to share over cocktail parties," Vidlak said.

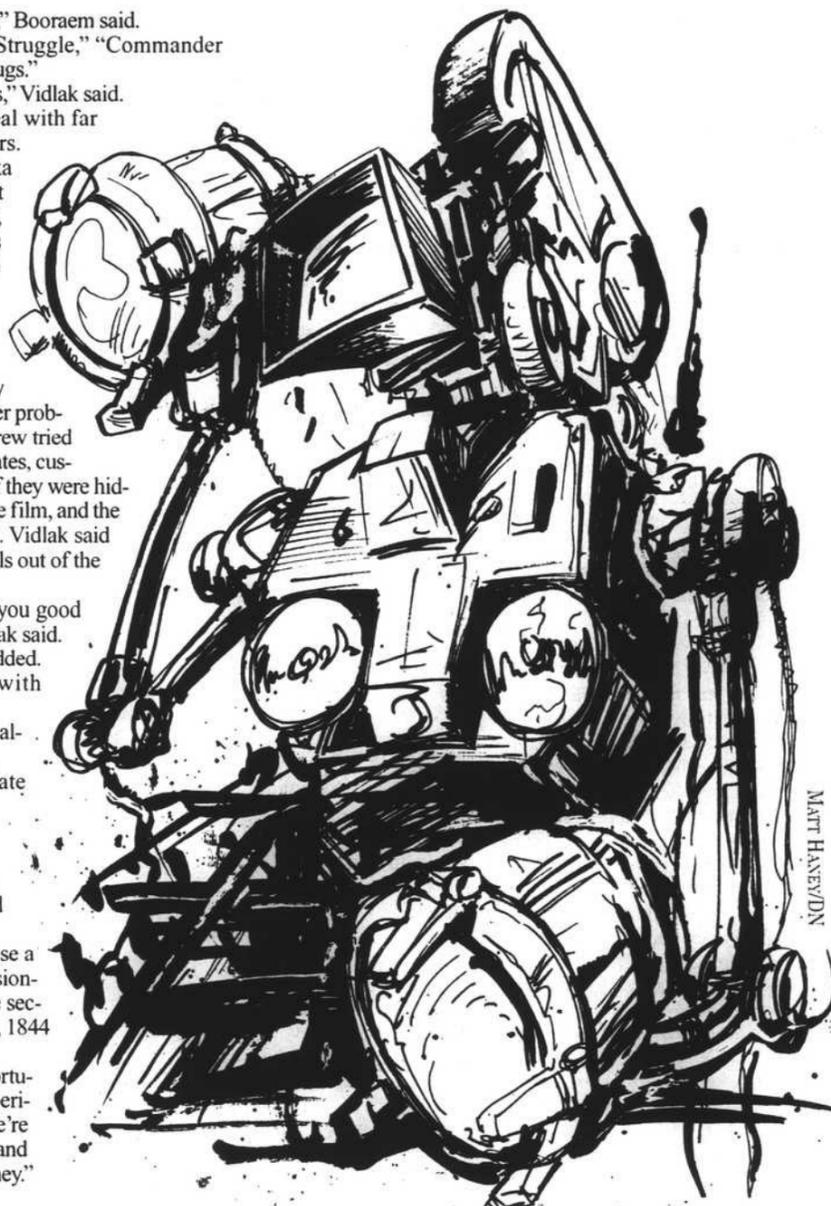
"They're like war stories," Booraem added.

Vidlak said raising money, even with NIFP's backing, can be difficult.

"If you have no money, you've got to really, really love your project," she said.

Vidlak and Booraem hope to alleviate some of the stress independent filmmakers feel, and they encourage people to join NIFP. To become a member, one can visit the NIFP Web site at [www.lincolne.com/nonprofit/nifp/](http://www.lincolne.com/nonprofit/nifp/) and fill out the form found there. Students and novices pay \$10 for membership, those a little more advanced pay \$25, and professionals pay \$35. The NIFP holds meetings the second Wednesday of every month at Telepro, 1844 N St.

"The best thing about NIFP is the opportunity to show your work to people with experience and knowledge," Booraem said. "We're a cross between a network and a mentor, and we use nonprofit sponsorship to raise money."



## Jazz Orchestra set to jive, wail

BY SHELLEY MIKA  
Staff writer

Brian Setzer hasn't got anything on the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra.

Even though Setzer's band and similar others made it impossible to ignore the jive and wail of the swing movement, the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra was way ahead of them.

The 17-piece big band has been together for 24 years and performs a variety of jazz and swing numbers.

For 14 years, they were billed as the Neo-classical Jazz Orchestra before taking the new name of the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra.

The orchestra has a basic core of members, although guest soloists and even guest dancers grace the stage sometimes.

Lincoln isn't the only place where this core performs. The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra can also be heard in Omaha, Kearney, Hastings and various other towns in Nebraska.

Occasionally, tours also take the band out of Nebraska. Most recently, it played in Sioux Falls, S.D.

This year's season starts Tuesday at the Pla-Mor Ballroom. Most performances thereafter will also be held at the Pla-Mor, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Although the season kicks off this week, the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra will not resume until November and will perform once a month through

May.

A variety of themes are on the calendar this year. The first official concert in the series is "Swing's the Thing," which will feature guest artist Daryl White on trumpet.

Series concerts two and three take on seasonal themes with "Christmas & All That Jazz" and "Cool Jazz: Baby It's Cold Outside." The guest artist in December will be Bev Jester, a vocalist.

"Gotta Dance!" and "Jazz Has Been Bari Good to Me" will wrap up the season. "Gotta Dance" will feature guest dancers Stephanie Chase and Bud and Rita Imley.

"Jazz Has Been Bari Good to Me" features Scott Vicroy on baritone sax and will be performed in Lincoln in April and in Kearney in May at the Holiday Inn.

Tickets to see The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra won't set you back as far as tickets for Brian Setzer, but you'll still see plenty of big band, swing and jazz.

Tickets are \$7 for students, \$12 for seniors and \$15 for adults per show. Season tickets are available for \$28 for students, \$48 for seniors, \$60 for adults and \$130 for families.

All tickets can be purchased at the first concert or by calling the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra business office at Arts Incorporated at (402) 477-8446. Tickets also can be purchased online by e-mailing [njo@artsincorporated.org](mailto:njo@artsincorporated.org).

### The Nebraska Jazz Orchestra 1999/2000

Students: \$7 Seniors: \$12 Adults: \$15

Sept. 21 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

What: Tuesday Night Special  
Dance to the music of the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra.  
Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom, 6600 W. O St. Lincoln, NE.

Nov. 9 7:30 p.m. in Lincoln  
Nov. 11 7:30 p.m. in Kearney

What: Swing's The Thing  
NJO salutes the Big Bands. Special guest artist- Darryl White, trumpet  
Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom, 6600 W. O St. Lincoln, NE. Holiday Inn, Kearney, 110 S. Second Ave. Kearney, NE.

Dec. 7 7:30 p.m.

What: Christmas & All That Jazz  
Featuring Bev Jester, vocalist.  
Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom.

Jan. 29 2000 7:30 p.m.

What: Cool Jazz "Baby It's Cold Outside"  
Featuring the Young Lions All-Star Band.  
Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom.

Feb. 11, 2000 7 p.m.

What: Valentines & Jazz  
Dinner and Fundraiser.  
Where: The Country Club of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb.

Mar. 14, 2000 7:30 p.m.

What: Gotta Dance  
With guest dancers Stephanie Chase, Bud and Rita Imley.  
Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom.

April 28, 2000 7:30 p.m. in Lincoln  
May 5, 2000 7:30 p.m. in Kearney

What: Jazz Has Been Bari Good To Me  
Featuring the NJO Young Jazz Artist Winner and Scott Vicroy, baritone sax.  
Where: Pla-Mor Ballroom, Lincoln Holiday Inn, Kearney.

MATT HANEY/DN

## 'Love of Game' can't salvage Costner film

BY EMILY PYEATT  
Staff writer

Kevin Costner stars in yet another baseball flick.

But after scoring with earlier films, "Bull Durham" and "Field of Dreams," Costner strikes out in "For Love of the Game."

In a coming-of-age film for the already aged, Costner plays Detroit Tigers' pitcher Billy Chapel. After a seemingly brilliant baseball career, the 40-year-old pitcher learns that the Tigers' not-too-hot season has forced his owner to sell the team. Chapel would then be traded and forced to leave the Tigers - the surrogate family to whom he has dedicated 20 years of play.

At the same time, his long-term girlfriend, Jane (Kelly Preston), stands him up and leaves him to begin a new life in London. Chapel is forced to decide the fate of his career and his relationship.

"For Love of the Game" then unfolds through a critical Tigers v.s. Yankees game in which a Yankee win would clinch a division title.

Chapel stands alone on the mound for nine innings of reflection. The plausibility of such a distracted athlete recalling his past love life is so slim it creates one of the film's greatest flaws.

### Film Review

#### The Facts

Title: "For Love of the Game"  
Stars: Kevin Costner, Kelly Preston  
Director: Sam Raimi  
Rating: PG-13  
Grade: C  
Five Words: Generic Baseball/Costner Flick Flops

Chapel flashes back to five years before the game, revealing the evolution of his relationship with Jane despite his growing success. Along with the narrative, Chapel is haunted by visions of his parents among the Yankee fans. Furthermore, Chapel is overcome by thought-provoking moments while staring into his glove.

In any plausible baseball game, Chapel would have been pulled and sent to the shower. Instead, Chapel allows such illusions to fuel his successful pitching in the Yankees' game.

The flaws increase throughout the film. It becomes increasingly obvious that the script is terribly weak. "For Love of the Game" is filled with empty lines such as, "The game doesn't stink ... It's a great game" and "How do you like to be kissed?"

Instantly readable iconic char-

Please see **GAME** on 13