

Story works well in 'Three Kings'

KINGS from page 12

"Three Kings" deals with the Gulf War, often overlooked, and a little known aspect of the war: a period of time just after the peace accord was signed in 1991 when thousands of revolutionary Iraqis were tortured and slaughtered after the American government failed to help them fight Saddam Hussein.

David O. Russell, who previously wrote and directed two comedies ("Spanking the Monkey" and "Flirting with Disaster"), did the same with this film, spicing it up with the savvy and wit often lacking from most war movies. Russell succeeds visually, too, melding the desert landscape into a stomping ground for the surreal and chaotic.

The basic story involves a gold heist, which involves Gates, Chief Elgin (Ice Cube), Troy Barlow (Mark Wahlberg) and Conrad Vig (music video director Spike Jonze). Barlow and Vig fall upon a treasure map, which points to a horde of Kuwaiti gold deep within the Iraqi borders.

Since all four are simply waiting to go home, as the war is officially over, they see the gold as not only a get-rich-quick scam but a chance to see some of the action none of them was in on during the war. Gates has to shake free a hawking television reporter (Nora Dunn), but once he does, the four can get their loot.

"Three Kings" introduces its other

theme quietly and seamlessly as the four enter the city that holds the gold. The rebels there are beaten and killed after being told by President Bush to fight Hussein, then are given no support to do so. The Republican Guard of the Iraqi and the Americans meet and, through a skillfully directed scene that signals a moral shift in the film, become entangled in conflict.

Russell has never done action scenes before, but the limited skirmishes in "Three Kings" create an apocalyptic and confusing atmosphere, complete with gas raids, snipers and an Infiniti convertible (not Lexus, which didn't make a convertible at that time, one character points out) among other luxury cars.

The movie also pulls through a sense of sympathy for the defeated Iraqis, coupled with an anti-American message that questions our involvement in a war that was so easy to win.

Unlike the patriotic war movies of 1998, "Three Kings" takes a far less unfiltered view, spreading the blame among the entire sordid mess of leaders, followers and everyone in between.

The performances aren't brilliant, but none are supposed to truly stand out. Clooney is solid, as he was in "Out of Sight" (the best movie of 1998 that nobody saw), and his work is a little reminiscent of William Holden's in "Stalag 17." Wahlberg and Ice Cube aren't wonderfully talented actors, but they fill their roles well.

Jonze, whose directing debut

comes later this year in "Being John Malkovich," adds a dose of humor, as does "Saturday Night Live" alum Dunn as the demanding reporter. The portrayals of Iraqis are well done and treated with respect throughout.

The real star is Russell, whose first two movies were funny but a bit childish. That tone changes only slightly in "Three Kings," but it's an important change, more satirical than plain goofy. It's "M*A*S*H" for the 1990s, and although Russell has far to go before he's Robert Altman, "Three Kings" is a stunning addition to his resume.

Along with the "South Park" movie, it's the most pleasant surprise of the year.



Back to School

BRING IN THE FAMILY

FREE HAIR CARE PRODUCTS WITH ANY COLOR OR PERM

Get a **FREE** 8 oz. Biolage Detangling Solution or any 8 oz. Anasazi Shampoo with any Color or Perm Service when you come in by October 31st, 1999. *Good only with coupon.*

474-4244
Call for an appointment.

Haircuts
\$5.25
to
\$5.75

Students, under direct supervision of licensed instructors, perform all services.

College of Hair Design
11TH & M ST. • BARBERING • COSMETOLOGY • 474-4244

Part-time Manufacturing Technicians

working together

Manpower and Pfizer

Offering part-time and full-time positions: **Morning, Evening, and Night Shifts!!**

Apply in person:
1001 S. 70th Suite 219
484-5511
Ask for Pete
EOE

'Sensation' a real draw for museum

NEW YORK (AP) — The curious gathered in long lines for a second day to see the art exhibit Mayor Rudolph Giuliani found so offensive he cut the museum's funding, a decision he defended again on Sunday.

The art critics, meanwhile, had mixed reviews about "Sensation."

The New Yorker magazine said the controversial exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art "offers plenty of targets for indignation" — such as a rotting cow's head covered with flies and mannequins of little girls with genitals on their faces.

But the reviewer called the piece at the heart of the firestorm — a painting of a black Madonna with a clump of elephant dung and cutouts from pornographic magazines — "gorgeous, sweet and respectful of its subject."

More than 9,200 people viewed "Sensation" on Saturday, its first day.

464-7201

MAZATLAN

Best Mexican Food in Town, GUARANTEED

Drink Specials All Day

Tues: \$2 Regular Margaritas

Wed: \$1.50 Mexican Beers

Thurs: Buy a Mazatlan Margarita and get a free appetizer!

one per table only

70th & O/P

mazatlan@70TH&O.yum!

Voted Lincoln's Best by Surf Lincoln - Lincoln's On-Line Community!!

1996, 97, 98...

MARGIN OF VICTORY SALE!*

When the Huskers win, you win!

The margin of victory of Saturday's game equals your discount on **any one clothing item.**

For example, if the Huskers win by 10 points, your discount is 10%.



UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

Lower Level, Nebraska Union • 472-7300
Lower Level, East Union • 472-1746

efollett.com



*Sale on Monday 10/4/99 only.
(in-store items only)

an epartner of efollett.com

NEW & USED COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS