

# The Weekend in Preview

The following is a brief list of weekend events. Please call the venue for more information.

## CONCERTS

**Creighton Lied Education Center for the Arts, 24th and Cass streets**  
Friday: Creighton University Orchestra

**Duggan's Pub, 440 S. 11th St.**  
Friday and Saturday: The Grateful Dudes

**Lied Center for Performing Arts, 301 N. 12th St.**  
Saturday: Cornhusker Marching Band  
Sunday: "A Judy Collins Christmas"

**O'Donnell Auditorium, 50th and Huntington streets**  
Sunday: Lincoln Civic Choir

**Royal Grove, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway**  
Friday: Black Light Sunshine  
Saturday: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

**St. Mark's, 8550 Pioneers Blvd.**  
Sunday: A Nebraska Brass Christmas

**The Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St.**  
Friday: The Paladins, The Mezcal Brothers  
Saturday: Shawn Pittman

**THEATER:**  
**Lincoln Community Playhouse, 2500 S. 56th St.**  
All weekend: "Mr. Scrooge"

**Lied Center for Performing Arts, 301 N. 12th St.**  
All weekend: Big Apple Circus

**Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, Sheldon Art Gallery, 12th and R streets**  
All weekend: "Twin Falls Idaho"

**Star City Dinner Theatre, 8th and Q streets**  
All weekend: "Pump Boys and Dinettes"

**GALLERIES:**  
**Gallery 9, 124 S. Ninth St.**  
All weekend: Allen Busch, Judy Greff and Barbara Sullivan

**Great Plains Art Collection, Love Library Rm. 215, 13th and R streets**  
All weekend: "Wind and Water on the Land": Karen Dienstbier, Karen Kunc, Christina McPhee, Linda Meigs and Susan Puelz

**Haydon Gallery, 335 N. Eighth St.**  
All weekend: "Small Treasures," all Haydon artists

**Lentz Center, Morrill Hall, 14th and U streets**  
All weekend: paintings by Shi Hu

**Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery, Home Economics Building, Rm. 231 East Campus**  
All weekend: "East Meets West," an apparel collection by Hong-Youn Kim

**The Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th and R streets**  
All weekend: "Black Image and Identity," "Robert Colecott: Recent Paintings," "Judy Burton: Visual Nuances" and "Eugene Atget's Views of Paris"

# Students direct performances

By JOSH NICHOLS  
Staff writer

They've been working all semester, and now they get a chance to show their stuff.

This weekend, student directors in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln theater department will get the opportunity to direct a play for the public's eye.

Today and tomorrow in the Studio Theatre, UNL students from Directing I will be directing single scenes from different full-length plays, and students in Directing II will be directing one-act plays.

Tonight's performance will feature two single-scene productions and two one-act plays, while tomorrow's will feature two single-scene productions along with a one-act play.

Visiting professor Ken McCulough, who teaches the two classes, said the students chose their own material and tried to make it contemporary work.

What they came up with was a variety of stage productions.

One of the one acts is about a famous Russian poet and the oppression she experienced under the rule of Stalin, while another is a Shakespeare sonnet about gay relations.

"They are all different in style and subject matter," McCulough said. "These productions show what the students did to transfer the work onto the stage. What the directors did with the scenes is interesting."

McCulough also pointed out that the productions are unique because they required that the students direct their peers in the theater department.

"The performances that are the most successful usually are a result of the directors being able to be professional in directing their peers," he said. "Many are able to do that in a very mature way."

Kyle Johnston, a student in the Directing I class, said overall, he thought it was nice working with student actors.



SHARON KOLBET/DN  
ABOVE: WHILE DIRECTING a play might be stressful to some, senior theater major Greg Peters takes it all in stride. Peters chose to direct a one-act play based on the words and writings of Jack Kerouac.

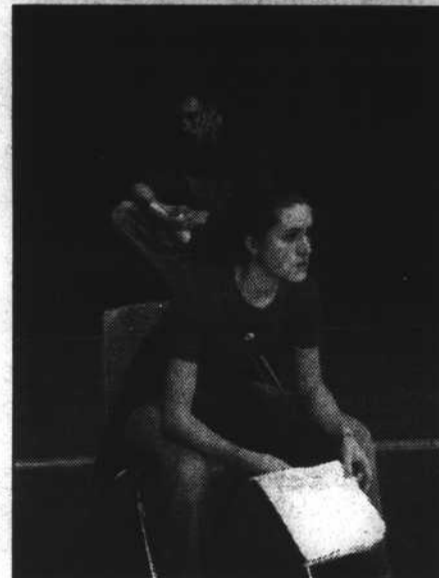
"It was kind of difficult working with people my age because of the relationships we hold in taking classes together and having experiences outside the department together," he said.

"I sometimes found it difficult to assert myself as a director, but I found that I could collaborate with them and draw more from them because of the relationship we have."

He said the more informal process involved a little more "screwing around" than usual and resulted in many good laughs.

As much as he enjoyed it, Johnston said he would have liked to have had even more time to work with the play.

Trying to balance his scene produc-



LEFT: CARMEN BAILEY and Chad Brown pause during their Saturday afternoon rehearsal. Bailey and Brown volunteered to work under the direction of fellow theater student Greg Peters as part of Peters' directing class final project.

Please see DIRECTORS on 13

# 'Twin Falls Idaho' a worthy debut effort

By JOSH KRAUTER  
Senior staff writer

The Polish Brothers' debut film, "Twin Falls Idaho," will undoubtedly draw a lot of comparisons to a couple of Davids - Lynch and Cronenberg - but aside from a few surface similarities, the film inhabits a world of its own.

So, let's get those surface similarities over with. The cinematography owes more than a little to Lynch. Dark blues, greens and browns color dimly lit rooms, calling to mind "Blue Velvet" and "Twin Peaks." Oddball peripheral characters pepper the film, but unlike Lynch films, the effect is not dreamlike. And "Twin Falls Idaho" shares Cronenberg's obsession with biological mutation and its effects on sexuality and psychology. But that's about it.

"Twin Falls Idaho" is about a pair of Siamese twins, Blake and Francis Falls, who begin to pick apart their co-dependent lives together when they meet a prostitute named Penny, played by fashion model Michele Hicks (why are all prostitutes in films portrayed by gorgeous women?), in her first film role.

Francis is ailing, and his heart is weaker than Blake's. Blake could live if the two were separated, but Francis couldn't. He relies on Blake to survive.

The film could have easily been a hey-look-at-the-freaks display of weirdness for weirdness' sake. But the Polish brothers, Michael and Mark, have an intimate knowledge of the subject matter that makes the film human.

The brothers are real-life identical twins with their own synchronous habits and language. In a press release, Mark said he and his brother didn't

## Film Review The Facts

Title: "Twin Falls Idaho"  
Director: Michael Polish  
Stars: Michael Polish, Mark Polish, Michele Hicks  
Rating: R (language, mild violence)  
Grade: B  
Five Words: Offbeat film bizarre, yet human

need to complete their sentences to communicate. They had to be enrolled in speech therapy before they started school because they had developed such an impenetrable language between the two of them. They said the film is specifically about their relationship.

The Polish brothers, who starred in and wrote the film (Michael directed it), were able to convincingly portray the conjoined twins and their special language. Blake and Francis speak in low whispers to each other and talk to others in a slow, careful monotone.

Each twin is seen as a separate person with his own identity but also as half of one entity. The complexity of this role is handled extremely well by the real-life twins.

Hicks is also very good as Penny. She manages to avoid the hooker-with-a-heart-of-gold trappings of her role by playing it simply, quietly and honestly.

"Twin Falls" carves out its own niche with strong performances, subtlety and unusual structure. The film is set up as a series of anecdotes. Something happens, the screen fades to black, then something else happens. The only narratives running through the film are Francis' failing health and Blake's increasingly romantic relationship with Penny.



COURTESY PHOTO  
IN "TWIN FALLS IDAHO," Mark and Michael Polish play Siamese twins who befriend a prostitute, played by Michele Hicks. The Polish brothers also wrote the film, and Michael directed it.

Dialogue is sparse, and the look of the film doesn't connect it to any certain period of time. The film is simultaneously claustrophobic and full of space, allowing the audience to get to know the characters' speech patterns, movements and mannerisms as well as their personalities.

Even in dramatic moments such as Francis' jealous reaction to Blake and Penny's relationship and Francis' illness, the actors stay grounded in reality. There are no uncomfortable moments of overacting.

The film does have several problems though, but most can be attributed to the brothers' inexperience as feature filmmakers. The peripheral characters aren't as well-written, and many are stereotypical, with ham-fisted dialogue, such as an extremely effeminate gay photographer and a sleazy entertainment lawyer who

wants to make money off the twins in the circus.

TV has-beens Garret Morris ("Saturday Night Live") and William Katt ("The Greatest American Hero") are given cameos as a nutcase who thinks he's Jesus and an insensitive doctor, respectively. These cameos have nothing to do with the film and seem to be thrown in to make fun of Morris and Katt.

And the film gets slightly preachy and cutesy toward the end, contrasting with the dark, pensive mood and subtle message of the rest of the film.

Despite these qualms, the rest of the film is a unique, bizarre trip that also manages to remain human. The Polish brothers have made an interesting film that deserves to be seen, if for no other reason than to get acquainted with filmmakers who will make a great film in the future.