

Movie season brings hits, misses

By Samuel McKewon

Senior editor

A new century brings a different approach to the start of the movie season.

Usually a dead time for the box office after all have gorged themselves on the holiday movie fare, late winter/early spring films don't usually appeal to the highest of film minds. Ordinarily, the only exceptions are the films shown at the Sundance Film Festival, this year on Jan. 20-30.

For every occasional "Fargo," there are far more like "Wing Commander." Teen comedies usually come out around now, as do smaller drama films that escaped wide release during Oscar season.

But 2000 rolls out a slightly different carpet, partially because of circumstance.

Plenty of big star vehicles, some of which have received strong critical buzz, got shifted out of the holiday season because of a perceived monster load.

Michael Douglas, Meg Ryan and yes, even Leo, have movies that were originally slated for Christmas and were moved back to entertain viewers through the bleak, snowy months.

Knowing Lincoln, some of the flicks won't get here on time. The following are the wide releases. It starts with doe-eyed Winona Ryder's pet project on Jan. 14.

Jan. 14
"Girl, Interrupted" - When writer Susanna Kaysen entered a mental facility for a "little rest" in 1969, she stayed for nearly two years, and Ryder has been cultivating a movie about Kaysen's memoirs of that time for more than five years. The result is "Girl, Interrupted," in which Ryder plays Kaysen. She is accompanied by an ensemble cast, includ-

ing Angelina Jolie, that plays the patients who surround Kaysen.

"Supernova" - A lot like the original "Alien," a six-member crew (which includes James Spader and Angela Bassett) answers a distress call on a distant planet and runs into mucho problems. Some of the film has to do with the title, a star that's about to explode.

Jan. 21
"A Map of the World" - Sigourney Weaver is Alice, a mother

whose entire life changes when her best friend's (Julianne Moore) child dies under Alice's watch. She is charged with child molestation. She goes to prison. She gets soulful with the sisters inside. A journey you can afford to miss.

"Down to You" - Hasn't Freddie Prinze Jr. done enough romantic teen comedies? Apparently not. Julia Stiles, from "10 Things I Hate About You," plays his love interest.

Jan. 28

"Boiler Room" - One of those quietly hot commodities: a small movie about day traders (including Giovanni Ribisi and Ben Affleck) and the torture they put themselves - and their competitors - through every day.

"Isn't She Great" - The completely true story of Jacqueline Susann, the failed actress-turned-author of "Valley of the Dolls." A strong cast and director Andrew Bergman, who hasn't worked since the big bomb of "Striptease,"

bring the account to the big screen.

"Things You Can Tell Just By Looking at Her"

- Holly Hunter, Glenn Close and Cameron Diaz play women who are look-

ing for love or trying to rekindle it. Big cast, lots of intertwining stories.

A chick flick? I'd say so.

"Eye of the Beholder" - Ewan MacGregor has the hot trail on Ashley Judd in one of those double-crossing, hired-spy movies. Judd's been on a box-office roll and gets to play another woman with an attitude. Chances are, this movie isn't quite as bad as "Double Jeopardy," nor will it do quite as well at the ticket counter.

Feb. 4

"Scream 3" - Sydney (Neve Campbell) goes to Hollywood and she's followed by an old friend. That's all we know. This "Scream" was scripted by Ehren Kruger, not Kevin Williamson. Let's hope there's less David Arquette this roll around.

"Gun Shy" - Romantic comedy with Liam Neeson as a tough cop who needs group therapy and finds love in Sandra Bullock. Next, please.

Feb. 11

"Hanging Up" - Another movie moved from the holiday season, Diane Keaton, Meg Ryan and Lisa Kudrow are sisters whose father, Walter Matthau, is on the brink of death.

"Snow Day" - It's a snow day off from school, and a bunch of kids exercise buffoonery.

"The Beach" - Moved from Christmas, the movie features Leonardo DiCaprio and a couple of French ragamuffins who find a treasure map to an East Asian island that causes them all kinds of problems. The film is directed by "Trainspotting" leader Danny Boyle, with some vavoom provided by newcomer Virginie Ledoyen.

Please see MOVIES on 12



Megan Cody/DN

FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Angelina Jolie, Wynona Ryder, Sandra Bullock, Cameron Diaz and Sigourney Weaver. **Back row, from left:** Bruce Willis, Meg Ryan, Ben Affleck and Tim Robbins.

Nebraska artists forecast future

By Josh Nichols

Staff writer

The future holds an infinite number of possibilities. In addition, people have a variety of ways to express outlooks on what will happen a day, year or century from now.

A medley of those views is being shown at the Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. 9th St., this month as part of the gallery's feature theme, "The Future."

The display showcases numerous artists who used different media to express their gazes into the future.

"We have everything from a sand etcher to abstract paintings to pottery to wood carvings," said

Julia Noyes, gallery owner and director. "There is a big variety."

"Every artist decided how he or she was going to depict the future." Noyes said that this was the first time a feature display had contained a group of artists.

Normally, one artist is featured per month.

"Each artist, using their own medium, came up with what they see in the future," Noyes said. "A lot of the art, like mine, is abstract. So you can interpret it however you want."

One piece of work on display is a face molded out of 100 percent recyclable materials.

"This artist depicted an important part of the future as being recycling materials," Noyes said. "It is

a very creative use of materials."

Another piece sits in the center of the room, a creation called "Sand Etcher." The work contains a pendulum that hangs over a three-foot area of sand. The pointed piece of metal sketches images in the sand below.

A two-foot-tall, half-moon metal piece is part of the collection.

This creation, called "The Game," could be a futuristic look at toys or games of the future.

The display also has abstract paintings on exhibition. But Noyes did stress that not all of the art is abstract, and her museum offers a variety of media to observe.

"I think sometimes people come into a gallery and think they

PREVIEW The Future

WHERE: Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. Ninth St.

WHEN: Jan. 1-30

COST: Free

THE SKINNY: Local artists create works representative of the next century.

have to be smart and know all about art," she said.

"But you don't. If you like something, look at it, and if you don't, move on to something else."

She also said an assumed art

Please see LOCAL on 10



Painting by Ralph Spangler