

'Dancer In the Dark' vivid, real

BY SARAH SUMNER

Protected in a world full of day-dreams and an obsession of musicals, Selma intimately divulges her hopes and secrets in the 1960s-based melodramatic musical "Dancer in the Dark," the winner of the Cannes Film Festival's Palme D'Or, or best film for 2000.

Bjork, Iceland's popular industrial/pop rock musician and the winner of Cannes' best actress for 2000, leads the cast with little acting experience as Czech immigrant Selma, a single mother with a 12-year-old son. She is slowly going blind from a hereditary disease from which she is desperately trying to save her son.

Selma works tirelessly at a factory as a punch-press operator with her best friend and confidant Kathy, played by Catherine Deneuve. She also enjoints straight pins to cardboard packaging for minuscule change to save money for an operation to correct her sight.

To get herself through the long, tedious hours of hard labor, she falls into her imagination and her passion for musical theater that she familiarized herself with as a child. Sounds become music, steps become beats, workers become dancers, and toil becomes rhythm to the feature playing in her head. She can escape from her poverty and disease with the hope of a new life for her son and embrace her love of music.

Through her trials of hard labor, dealing with a troubled young son and going secretly blind, she is charged with murder and her life is turned to not only fighting for her son's life, but also for her own.

Director Lars von Trier takes a slight step into Greek tragedy with the fall of the great hero, while intermixing the sounds of normal life into a playful representation of love overcoming adversity.

Along with factory and train sounds, footsteps and noises, actual instruments are incorporated into the song. Backup singers support Bjork's vocal blend of plea and joy. In

Please see DANCER on 6

Plate full for area art

BY CRYSTAL K. WIEBE

Lincoln's art community is once again offering a full schedule of visual art, music and drama this spring.

Current exhibits at the Noyes Art Gallery, 119 S. 9th, include a variety of area artists whose work includes beaded jewelry and stained glass, along with paintings and photographs.

Colorful seed murals by artist Julia Noyes are now on display.

Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital patients worked with Noyes on one mural depicting several doors.

The gallery is hosting a free artists forum on Jan. 19 where "artists can come and share expertise about using archival

Please see ART on 6

A season of song and dance

Broadway plays a big hand in Lied spring season

Check out the full Lied slate at www.dailynebr.com

Bagtime, Jan. 2-10
This four-time Tony Award winner was named as musical of the year by USA Today in 1996 and is the highest and longest running show this season. It follows the entwined paths of three families in the early 20th century.

The Chieftains, Feb. 1
Ambassadors of traditional Irish music, the Chieftains have achieved worldwide success and are very popular in the realm of traditional and folk music. They return to the Lied performing for inquiring audiences, which have long awaited their return since their last performance.

Diary of Anne Frank, Feb. 9
The Mormon Repertory Theater presents a stage adaptation of the award-winning, real-life Holocaust experiences of the young

Trinity Irish Dancer, Feb. 19
Similar to the popular kind of Irish dance troupe, Trinity Irish Dancer has many unique aspects, a very vibrant and energetic atmosphere, and a variety of

Russian National Orchestra, Feb. 10
Revisiting the 19th-century classical music in Russia, this talented group has delighted audiences and critics alike.

St. Petersburg's Cinderella, Feb. 16
Featuring the beloved fairy tale Cinderella, this company, consisting of 12 champion dancers, incorporates Russian traditional ballad and dancing that is perfect for the entire family.

KODO, Feb. 21
These drummers from Sado Island, Japan, make up one of the world's best known and most respected percussion troupes. The traditional taiko drums, which symbolize rural community life, Japan is the center of the group's craft.

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American Ballet Theatre
The American Ballet Theatre presents a variety of performances, including the Royal Ballet of Flanders.

The Three Musketeers, Mar. 11
A classic story of brotherhood, courage, and the Alexander Dumas novel, this show features a royal court, a dashing hero, and a cunning villain.

Godspell, Apr. 6-8
Celebrating one of the most popular musicals ever, Godspell features a generation that discovers how to find the world through the spiritual and lessons from the teachings of Matthew. The performance explores the hearts and minds of the young generation that many students will easily relate to.

Mary in Hand, Apr. 20
One of the great American comedies of the 20th century, Hand to Hand has over 30 million viewers and was Broadway hit in its name. Adapted by the Pulitzer Prize-winning Craig Toulson, it tells the story of a young woman who saves the world from a nuclear war.

Leontine
A musical adaptation of the 1960 film "Leontine," this Broadway performance presents a teenage boy who moves in with his mother and finds himself in a small town where "no dancing is allowed."

The above is only a sample of some of the many performances that are sponsored by the Lied this semester. For more information, contact the Lied Center box office at 333-3343.



"The Three Musketeers" ballet is a part of the Lied Center's schedule for the spring season

Contemporary adaptations await in UNL spring theater schedule

BY SARAH SUMNER

Spring fever will soon be in the air, and the UNL Theater Department is way ahead of the crowd with its selection of plays for this semester.

Julie Hagemeyer, Theater Manager of UNL's Theatre Arts and Dance Department, said the spring schedule will offer a "cross-section" of the theater world—something for every student.

The main stage's modern shows will be a change from last semester, when students performed "All's Well that Ends Well" the bi-annual "A Christmas Carol." The second semester, Hagemeyer said, will be more contemporary.

The lineup begins in February with "The Philadelphia Story," by Philip Barry. It shows from 15-17, 20-24, all at 7:30p.m. at the Howell Theater. Based in the 1930s, this classic comedy originally starring Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant and James Stewart, follows the happenings of a high-class young divorced woman who's engaged to be married again.

"The Last Train to Nibroc," by Arlene Hutton, runs from March 8-10 and 20-24 UNL is partnering with the Nebraska Repertory Theater for the story of a young soldier who has the dream of becoming a big

city writer gets on a train and sits next to a young girl named May.

His desire to become a writer is enhanced when he discovers that F. Scott Fitzgerald and Nathaniel West are on the same train he is.

The forever young "Peanuts" gang is conjured up again in "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." This is based on the Charles M. Schulz comic strip, with the book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner. The show runs from April 19-21 25-28 at the Howell Theater. UNL is again working with the Rep. The play first ran in the 1960s, but was updated for Broadway in 1998.

For now, the old version of the play is being used, but that may change in the next few weeks concerning rights information, Hagemeyer said. The updated script would include the character of Sally.

For the main stage, consideration for the plays goes through a series of levels before the play is chosen.

"We look for the need of the students, what the director wants, and the needs of the audience," Hagemeyer said.

Hagemeyer said that there is a great variety for the students to enjoy with the main stage theater and also the student-directed Theatrx productions.

"Theatrx is having a great season and the selec-

tion is very interesting," Hagemeyer said.

The first Theatrx performance is an adaptation of "Scenes From A Marriage," written by Swedish film director Ingmar Bergman. This serious play takes a look into the lives of one married couple and starts its run from Feb. 1-3 at the Temple Building.

The director, senior theater major John Elsener, is directing for the first time for Theatrx, though he has acted in many productions. Elsener said the play is a translation of a translation and it is crucial to keep the content.

"I think that it is real important in translations to try and find the original rhythm because so much can get lost," Elsener said.

"The Club," a musical by Eve Merriam, begins March 1-3 at the Temple Building. "The Club" displays gender-bending issues in a cabaret style, kit-kat club with lots of singing and dancing for musical lovers.

An opportunity for student playwrights to show their star potential is the Nebraska Masquers' One Act Play Festival, April 5-7.

The Theatrx program is an opportunity for students to make an experience happen that is not normally going to be done on first stage," Hagemeyer said.

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Julie Hagemeyer
UNL theater manager

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The conception of Theatrx began in the 1980s by the Nebraska Director's Theater for students wanting to learn more about directing. Those who have a Theatrx concept, must submit a proposal with the idea, the number of people needed, and technical information to the Theatrx council by the end of the prior semester to which they want the production of the play to begin.

The council then ranks the ideas and includes runners-up. The plays are given around \$100 to produced, not including publicity, though they may borrow props and costumes.