

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hult Center's 'A Sculptor's Block' breathes life into classic sculptures

By Janet Paulson
Of the Emerald

A unique performance combining performing art and fine art will be presented tonight at the Hult Center. Produced by Andre Carpenter of the Human Dancing Company in collaboration with the University's fine arts department, "A Sculptor's Block" brings classical sculptures to life.

Carpenter has gathered what he calls "some of the finest bodies in Eugene" to perform in the semi-nude, "PG" production. He has taken some of the world's finest sculptures, works by Rodin, Michelangelo and the Classical Greeks, and infused them with life through dance and theatrics.

The show begins with a young sculptor, played by Eugene dancer-sculptor Douglas Zalud-Mackie, plagued by a "creative block." He is joined by his guide mentor, played by Richard Reitz, who takes the sculptor on a mystical quest.

The artist and his guide enter a dream realm where classical works of sculpture leave their eternal poses and interact with the two men. Eighteen young models and dancers portray the sculptures. This is a first stage appearance for many members of the cast.

Carpenter is known for his original programs. They are often unorthodox, but always thought-provoking

performances. "A Sculptor's Block" should be no exception.

"Everything starts with a block, whether it is mental or a block of stone," Carpenter says. "You work at the block until it becomes art."

The sculptures focus on the artistic beauty of the human form, he says. "It is a celebration of the human shape."

One major dance sequence in the production is the "Liberation of the Slaves." In the sequence, Michelangelo's famous "captive slaves" free themselves from their blocks of stone.

Christine Mulder, a bachelor of fine arts candidate in sculpture, constructed most of the sets and props for the program. Mulder spent "hours carving styrofoam" to produce the sets, which represent blocks of marble or other sculpting materials.

The program features music by Vangelis, Kitaro, Zimfiri, Vivaldi, Barber, Nina Simone, Albert King and others as well as texts by Rodin, Beaudelaire, the Bible, Sophocles and Kazantzakis.

The production makes its preview performance tonight at the Hult Center's Soreng Theatre in what Carpenter refers to as its "dress-undress" rehearsal. Tickets for tonight's performance are \$6.50. The show continues Friday night, when tickets will be \$8.



Photo by Shu-Shing Chen

Bob Berger, right, and Lee Anderson, recreate "The Kiss," in "A Sculptor's Block."

'Making Mr. Right' weakly performed, disappointing

Teaching social graces to a robot must be tricky. Selling the story to the movie-going public must be trickier.

The makers of "Making Mr. Right" do a mediocre job of both.

This movie is a story about

the contrast between human mastery over technology and continuing dismal failure in amorous relationships.

Directed by Susan Seidelman, this movie is a great disappointment after her last effort at directing in "Desperately Seeking Susan." It's the story of Florida image maker Frankie Stone and her attempt to groom the robot creation of Chemtech Corp. so Congress will pick up the tab.

Although this film works

from a decent story line, contains some very funny scenes and is visually appealing, the main characters are held

Review by
Jackie Barry

together with styling and props rather than human traits and emotions.

Frankie, played by Ann Magnuson, is one of problems with this film. Her cute,

disheveled lifestyle lends an interesting side to her character, but her portrayal lacks strength and charisma.

John Malkovich, playing a dual role as the robot Ulysses and his creator Dr. Jeff Peters, doesn't do much better. He did best as the robot learning the ways of the world, whose frank assessment of things sometimes gets him in trouble.

He gets his neck wrung when

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Fast-paced 'Extreme Prejudice' offers mix of violence, humor

If you're looking for something with action and humor mixed with violence, the newly released "Extreme Prejudice" is for you.

This modern day shoot'em-up-western, starring Nick Nolte ("48 Hrs.") in the leading role, is about as subtle as a jackhammer, turning up corpses in the battle of good vs. evil from beginning to end.

It's not that the movie lacks redeeming qualities, it's just that there's a downright bunch of shootin' goin' on, and lots of folks are hitting the hay early.

But if you're the hearty type

(5-14 shots in the chest), then this movie is sure to please. But if you're soft and a bit

Review by
Kevin Long

squeamish (0-4 shots), then you should probably enjoy your popcorn at home while taking in either "Hunter" or "The Equalizer."

Nolte plays county ranger Jack Benteen. Benteen is an archaic, but always rough and ready, peacekeeper serving his Texas county, located

somewhere north of the Rio Grande. Nolte plays the role enjoyably with robust style, but mainly with a thundering pistol.

In the other corner wearing white is Cash Bailey, played by Powers Boothe ("Emerald Forest"). Bailey is the slick and sly leader of a Mexican drug smuggling ring doing business in Texas. He is also the childhood and longtime friend of Benteen. Boothe is perfectly cast as Benteen's disgusting but likable friend, foe and problem.

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