

**Trilogy** *Continued from Page 10*

drama is focused on the characters.

Fierstein's screenplay seasons those scenes with a liberal dose of humor and a few moments of painful conflict.

The show ultimately belongs to Fierstein, for his writing as well as his performance. He

doesn't merely hold his own with Bancroft and Broderick, he shines with warmth and wit.

Ultimately this is the strongest aspect of *Torch Song*, the honest, humorous, painful portrayal of a human being just like anyone else who happens to be gay. Now there's an idea whose time has come.

**Earthweek '89 Events**  
A Time to Celebrate Earth  
**Friday, April 21**

**John Muir's Birthday, National Day of Outrage!**  
Rally and March to Downtown for Ancient Forests  
12 Noon - Starts in EMU Courtyard

**Saturday, April 22**

**Earthday! Riverfront Park Picnic**  
Food, music, frisbees, fun! Celebrate our riverfront, support recreation and wildlife. No Riverfront Research Park!  
11:00 AM - By Autzen Footbridge

**Earthball '89**

Willie Dee and Shakubuku playing reggae, rhythm and soul  
Earthsong, music from the Southern Siskiyou  
8:00 PM - EMU Ballroom

**Sunday, April 23**

**Earthrun '89**

10:00 AM - Skinner's Butte, 1st and High

For more info call Survival Center at 686-4356

**'Dead Calm' goes for the throat; reality painted in 'Say Anything'**

By Ken Nolan  
Emerald Contributor

*Dead Calm* is a new thriller which, through its limited characters and simple plot, throttles the viewer by the throat and doesn't let go until the last frame shines on the screen.

A commander in the Australian Navy, Sam Neill (*A Cry in the Dark*) comes home from the sea to discover his wife has been seriously injured in a

**Movie Review**

head-on auto accident. Their small toddler is killed after hurtling through the windshield in an incredible graphic and realistic scene.

From this shocking and horrific five-minute prelude, *Dead Calm* then spends the rest of its hour and a half on the awesome and lonely emptiness of the Pacific ocean. In an attempt to recover from the loss of their son, Neill and his wife (Nicole Kidman) decide to spend weeks in solace on a large sailboat, sailing around aimlessly.

Unfortunately, they come upon a crippled schooner, whose only occupant, Billy Zane, comes aboard the couple's sailboat claiming his five shipmates have died of food poisoning. When Neil rows to the schooner to check out the stranger's story, he makes a horrifying discovery.

Zane steals the couple's sailboat, kidnaps Neill and leaves him stranded alone on a sink-

ing ship.

The awesome expanse and bloody sunsets of the Pacific ocean make a perfect backdrop for this thriller. The feelings of helplessness, both of Neill's failure to get the decrepit ship's motor running, and his wife's inability to reason with her psychopathic captor, are compounded by the fact that they are all alone in the middle of huge ocean.

This movie illustrates what lengths people must go to in order to stay alive. *Dead Calm* also proves to movie audiences today that a film can be horrifying while also staying realistic. There are no modern cliches which seem to be the trademark of current horror films; no demons, no Freddy Kruegers and no poltergeists. *Dead Calm* returns to the basic plots which used to make audiences scream twenty years ago.

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Moviegoers who love a good scare and an excellent thriller should rush out to see *Dead Calm*, a simple, yet terrifying nightmare of the sea.

Oh no, here comes another dumb movie about teenagers, one that adults will never enjoy or even relate to, right? Wrong. *Say Anything*, a new film about both teenagers and adults, is out to utterly destroy this misconception through a refreshingly realistic portrayal of youth.

Starring John Cusack as a nervous, oddball teenager who believes that "kick boxing" is the sport of the future, *Say*

*Anything* delivers an honest plot with honest characters. The dialogue is startlingly realistic and entertaining, and the screenplay never resorts to the falling to the level of the contrived *Porky's*-type humor seen in most teen films.

Ione Skye plays Cusack's new girlfriend, whose only problem other than being a genius is that she has never had a chance to express her feelings to anyone younger than her father. John Mahoney plays her caring, seemingly honest father who is willing to do anything to protect his daughter's future — including wrecking his own.

The promising aspect of *Say Anything* lies in its characters. Too many movies about young adults have stereotypical fathers who are cruel and insensitive to their daughter's wishes. Most of these characters come off as very unrealistic. This film destroys the contrived mold by giving an honest portrayal of real people in real situations, and how these relationships can change.

This ultimately honest depiction of three likable characters makes *Say Anything* impossible to dislike. It is a movie for everyone who would enjoy a funny and touching story packed with emotion. And for those who want to support the continuing slop of inane teenage garbage films like *License to Drive* and *She's out of Control*, avoid *Say Anything* because it is a movie with one major difference — it's good.

**Calendar** *Continued from Page 8*

THEATER/DANCE

Friday, April 21

**Hanging by Our Fingernails** — performed by Springfield Theater, 8 p.m., Springfield High School auditorium, 875 N. 7th St. Tickets \$2, available at the door.

Friday, April 28

**Master's thesis dance concert** — with works by Lyn Neeley and Jean Nelson, 8 p.m., Dougherty Dance Theatre in Gerlinger Annex. Free admission. Also playing Saturday, April 29 at 8 p.m.

VISUAL ARTS

Continuing **Synaesthetic and futurhythmic art** — by David Zerrull, EMU Art Gallery during normal building hours. Free admission.

MISCELLANEOUS

Friday, April 21

**Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration** — sonnets, dances, songs, fights, scenes, soliloquys and competitions of wit, 1

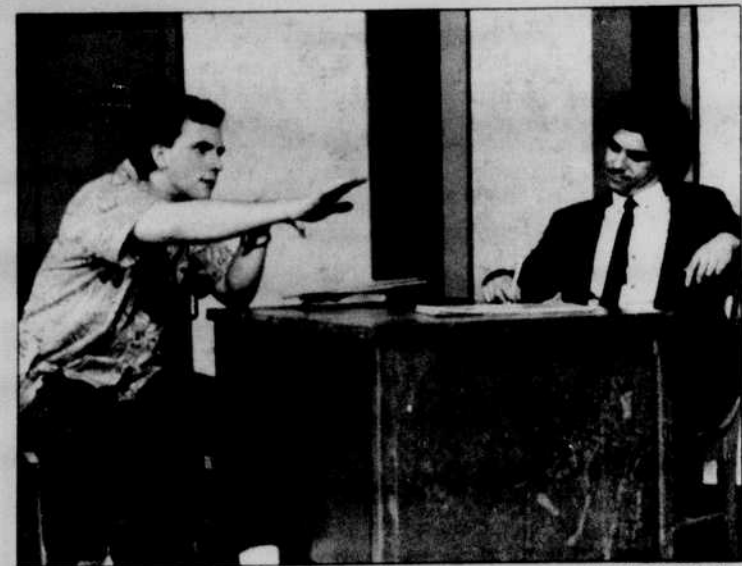


Photo by Scott Maben

**Neil Toomie (Don Brady, left) and Dan Rittman (Dan Pegoda) argue a point in University Theatre's "Ghost on Fire," playing tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. in Villard Hall's Arena Theatre.**

to 2:30 p.m., EMU Courtyard. Saturday, April 22

**Neil Gladstone** — comedian, 8:30 p.m., WOW Hall. Tickets \$6 advance, \$7 DOS, available

at EMU Main Desk, Balladeer Music, Cat's Meow, House of Records, Record Garden and the WOW Hall front desk. All ages welcome.

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