

# Filmmakers need creativity

Kleckner

This weekend presented audiences with a number of great examples of post-modernist recycling by the film industry. Originality in films seems to be gauged these days by how well the filmmakers steal ideas from other films, rather than by how they use their own imagination.

First up on the critical dissection plate is "Reign of Fire," which mixes "Mad Max" style post-apocalyptic imagery with, of all things, castle and dragon epics.

The film opens with a pseudo-artistic shot of the streets of London covered in birds, which seems out of place in a film that also has a helicopter fighting a dragon. With material like this, coming off like a half-assed Fellini is poor judgment on director Rob Bowman's part. The set-up is that some underground railroad workers accidentally open up a cavern that releases dragons back into the world. Soon, most of civilization is dead, and survivors are hiding in underground compounds.

The film continues its lapses in judgment by telling us about the destruction of the world through voiceover narration and newspaper headlines — rather than by showing us. At one point, a copy of Time magazine is shown with the headline "Is This the End?"

It's good to know that as the world burns we can still get good coverage of the whole thing. The film stars Christian Bale and

GUEST COMMENTARY

Ryan Nyburg

Matthew McConaughey as the leader of a group of survivors and the leader of a gung-ho militia, respectively, both showing that in fact they can't act, and all that stuff before was a put-on.

The rest of the cast isn't much better, each one coming off as a step lower than cardboard cutouts. What's worse is that neither the cast nor the director seem to be aware of how campy this material is, and they make the deadly mistake of taking it seriously. Things might have worked out better if someone would have let them in on the joke. One-and-a-half stars out of four — and I'm being generous.

Next up is the latest in the long-running "Halloween" series, "Halloween: Resurrection." Here, slasher films get mixed with the Internet and reality television for a big ball of bloody, violent fun.

The plot has the usual gang of dumb-ass teens staying in killer Michael Myers' home on Halloween night for a webcast of the evening. You can take it from there. Most of them die horrible deaths, the lead female lives and the whole thing is left open for a sequel.

The film does transcend its standard genre formula in one sequence, when leading lady Bianca Kajlich

gets directions on a Palm Pilot from a group of kids watching the webcast. They tell her to do all the things that the audience would usually be shouting at the screen, such as "Don't scream" and "He's in the hallway," thus blurring the lines between audience and character, making this, I believe, the first existentialist horror film. Three stars.

Finally, I offer the best film of the weekend — and possibly the summer. "Road to Perdition" mixes the gangster film, road movie and period piece without becoming caught in the trappings of any of those genres.

Tom Hanks stars as a hitman for the Irish mob. Internal jealousies cause his wife and youngest son to be killed, so he grabs the oldest boy and hits the road, trying to keep them both alive while exacting his revenge. Everything in the film, from the haunting score to the beautiful cinematography, is perfect.

Hanks delivers a somber performance as the hitman, and the supporting cast couldn't be better, with Paul Newman as a mob boss and Jude Law as a morbid assassin. Director Sam Mendes shows that "American Beauty" wasn't a fluke, and he is fast becoming one of the best directors in Hollywood today. This is more intelligent and well-made film than much of the paltry nonsense out there, and well worth seeing. Four stars.

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance columnist. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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Eugene-Springfield is hosting a free barbecue at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Emerald Park, which is off River Road. Venture Club aims to change the lives of the group's members, their community and the world. Check it out — the group is providing food, drinks and volleyball...

**Morcheeba**, England's no-longer-underground trip-hop sensation, releases its new album, "Charango," in North America today. The band has outdone itself with this album, blending atmospheric, lounge-like overtones and a plethora of outside influences with its signature sound. I definitely heard tinges of **St. Etienne** and **Cibo Matto**. Psychedelia and hip-hop never sounded so sweet and mellow...

Get on the train to Portland right now and get in line for Friday's **Mrs. Portland Mercury Beauty Pageant**. The event is hosted by the Portland Mercury's most fabulous **Wm. Steven Humphrey**, and incredible celebrity judges will be on hand — including **Art Alexakis** from **Everclear**, who is supposed to have a new album and supporting tour happening in early fall — to determine Portland's loveliest lady. Trip and fall while running to **Berbat's Pan**. Doors are at 8:30 p.m., show at 9 p.m., only \$4. There will be door prizes and promos from cool Portland locales, including the luscious **Cricket Cafe** and the supremo **Leepin' Lizards Hair Place**...

The **Saturday Market Stage** will be stuffed this weekend — and not just from the fantastic **Sara's Tamales** or **Afghani Cuisine's** remarkably delicious "bolani." Be-

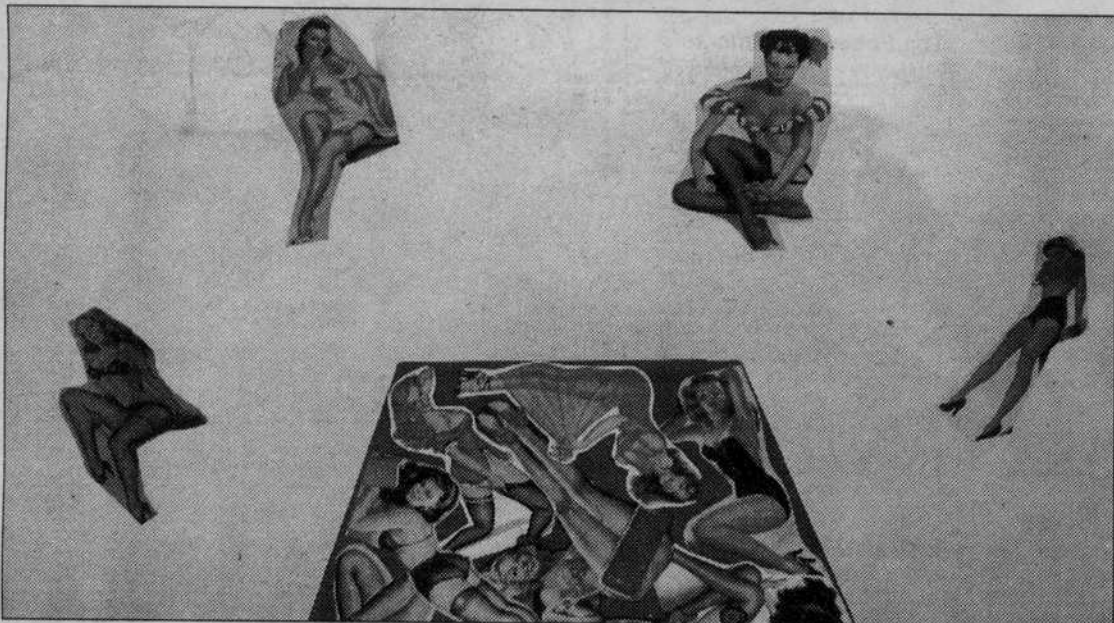
ginning at 3 p.m., the 11-member **Orquesta Alto Maiz** delivers a fresh crop of Latin-jazz-dance music straight from the heartland. The group is known as Iowa's best salsa band, and corn does indeed go wonderfully with salsa, so it all makes sense. For an even bigger dose of music (and beer, too), head to the **Wild Duck** later Saturday night to hear **Orquesta Alto Maiz** again. Doors are at 9 p.m., show at 9:30 p.m., \$10.

A stimulating art show by **Kathryn Reese** runs through Aug. 17 in **The Buzz Coffeehouse** in the EMU. The summer staff in The Buzz are lovely, which makes "Multiferious Combustion" all the more worth an extended look. Reese offers a beautiful assortment of explosions of color and swirls of fancy...

And finally, the **Mayor's Art Show 2002** — held in the **Jacobs Gallery** at the Hult Center during **Eugene Celebration** — is now accepting entries for this most-esteemed hometown art competition. Entry forms are available at the Jacobs Gallery or at the **Lane Arts Council** office. But here's a tip: The real Eugene Celebration art show won't be at the Hult Center. For 11 years, the **Salon Des Refusés** has been showing the pieces rejected by the Mayor's Art Show, giving more artists a chance to reach the people. Sources say the Salon will probably be at the **Heron Building**, as it was in 2001, but if not, volunteers will be on hand outside the Jacobs Gallery so that artists picking up their rejected pieces can find out where to go to have their art welcomed.

Contact the editor in chief at editor@dailyemerald.com. His views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

## All pinned up with nowhere to go



Adam Jones Emerald

### Art installation opens in EMU

1950s pinup girls cover a wall of the Adell McMillan Art Gallery in the EMU.

The display is part of artist Erin McKillip's "Canvas and Collage" installation, which continues through mid-August.

The show is sponsored by the UO Cultural Forum and is open to students and the community seven days a week. In addition to the collection of retro porn-looking cutouts of women, other work is on

display, including two mattresses plastered with paint and undergarments. The show also includes unique wall lamps that shine light through a canvas painted with black silhouettes.

All pieces are available for purchase from McKillip. Prices range from \$50-\$300.

The gallery is located adjacent to the EMU Ballroom on the second floor. For more information, contact the UO Cultural Forum at 346-4373.

— Jenni Schultz

## Hyde

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than the original," Zingo said.

Lucy Harris, played by Kristina Seleshanko, is an entertainer at a bordello called the Red Rat.

Seleshanko's glorious voice soars through numbers like "Bring on the Men" and "A New Life," and her soulful acting enriches her character.

"In the Broadway production, the character wasn't especially well-developed," Seleshanko said. "So, it was like starting from scratch."

Jekyll meets her when he stops in for a drink, but he does not accept when she offers a trip to her bedroom.

Instead, he offers his friendship. Jekyll is loyally engaged to Emma

Carew, played by the sweet-voiced Jessica Rose Rossi.

However, Hyde carries out the relationship with Lucy that good-spirited Jekyll could not.

The music conveys the passion sparking between the characters. Desire and love blossoms amidst the harsh Dickensian mood created by the set and lighting, and the bewitching combination casts its dark spell on the audience.

Tickets are \$17 in advance and \$22 the day of the show. Students and seniors get in for \$14 in advance. Purchase tickets online at [www.actorscabaret.org](http://www.actorscabaret.org), at the box office, or call 683-4368 or 1-800-310-4368 to order.

Contact the reporter at jillandaley@dailyemerald.com.

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