

Movies, music of the MONTH

Everywhere from the UO Cultural Forum to Sam Bond's Garage host to several events in February

BY AMY LICHTY
PULSE REPORTER

February can be one of the dreariest months of the year. Although it's shorter than all the rest, there are still plenty of events to keep everyone entertained.

Here at the University, the UO Cultural Forum is putting on a wide variety of activities. Friday, "What the Bleep Do We Know" will be shown as a part of Friday Night Flicks in PLC 180. The show starts at 9 p.m. and is free. On Valentine's Day, the Derek Truck Band will be performing in the EMU Ballroom. The show starts at 8 p.m. Student tickets are \$8; general admission is \$16 and \$17 at the

door. On Feb. 17, the Cultural Forum presents the Space Gnome Records Showcase in Agate Hall at 8:30 p.m. Tickets for students are just \$2 and general admission is \$3. On Feb. 18, Friday Night Flicks presents another free show, "Brother to Brother," at 8 p.m. in PLC 180. From Feb. 24 through the 27, the 13th Annual Queer Film Festival will be going on in PLC 180. Passes are \$6 for University students and \$8 for community passes. The schedule has yet to be announced. On Sunday, Feb. 27, the Harlem Globetrotters will be making a stop at McArthur Court at 2 p.m. Tickets range from \$15 to \$76.

The McDonald Theatre also has a jam-packed month. Keller Williams will perform Sunday, Feb. 13. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at McDonald Theatre Ticketing and at all Safeway TicketsWest outlets for \$17. If not sold out, tickets will also be available at the McDonald Theatre Box Office the day of the show for \$20 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. George Winston will be at the venue Feb. 14. Tickets are on sale now for \$20, \$27 and \$35 in advance. At the door, tickets may be purchased for \$23, \$30 and \$38. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. On Tuesday, Feb. 22, Papa Roach with Skindred and F-Ups will be at the McDonald. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 at the door if not previously sold out.

Over at WOW Hall, Handgun Bravado, Steps To Lydia, One Point Star, Nx and Mastro3 will be performing Friday, Feb. 11. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and tickets can be purchased for \$5 at the door.

On Feb. 12, Monkee Torture, The Anxieties, Streetlight Cardiacs and the Rock and Roll Hearts will be playing at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door. See LAM Presents: Falling Up, Leaning Towards Infinity, Feb. 13 for \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. On Feb. 26, see the CultureClash present the Native American Hip-Hop and Reggae Festival. The show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Sam Bond's Garage is also hosting a variety of musical talents. On Saturday, Feb. 12, see Savitri and The Quick and Easy Boys rock out at 9:30 p.m. for \$3. Mood Area 52 helps celebrate Valentine's Day at Sam Bond's Garage. Come tango at 9:30 p.m. for \$3 to \$5. On Feb. 15, enjoy the Sam Bond's Bluegrass Jam at 9 p.m. for free. On Feb. 17, see Jason Webley with Andru Bemis play some modern folk at 9 p.m. Tickets range from \$6 to \$8.

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Adventures in Pooh's new movie act as a parable about politics

Children will be distracted by the lovable characters, but parents may notice the allusions to homeland security

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cute, cuddly, wholesome and well-intentioned — all this you'd expect from a movie starring Winnie the Pooh and Co.

However, "Pooh's Heffalump Movie" is also a parable about prejudice that could easily apply to today's heightened fears about homeland security.

Little kids won't notice. They'll be too enraptured by the bouncy, slapstick adventures of Pooh and his animated buddies in the Hundred Acre Wood. But oh yes, it's right there in front of you, as plain as Pooh Bear's beloved hunny pots.

The source of their fear comes one morning when Pooh (voiced by Jim Cummings) and the other A.A. Milne creatures hear a noise that rattles their usual idyll. The crotchety Rabbit (Ken Samson) tells his crew the sound could only have been made by a Heffalump, an evildoer with "fiery eyes and a tail with a spike" which is "wide as a river and tall as a tree," as the "The Horribly Hazardous Heffalumps" song goes.

Little Roo (Nikita Hopkins) isn't scared. He thinks it sounds "neat," and wants to tag along with the big kids on their Heffalump hunting expedition, which the Rumsfeldian Rabbit has orchestrated, complete with elaborate traps that make the best use of his troops' natural ground game.

Tigger (also Cummings), Piglet (John Fiedler) and the guys have told Roo he's too young to join them in battle. But Roo sneaks off on his own, runs into one of these Heffalumps and quickly realizes there's nothing to be afraid of. It's a goofy kid like him, named Lumpy (Kyle Stanger), who looks like a lavender baby elephant and speaks with a British accent. (If Bridget Jones were a cartoon character, this is what she'd look like.)

As the mismatched new friends run around the woods together, Lumpy divulges that he has seen Roo's pals, and he thinks they're terrifying, too.

Xenophobia is bad, we learn from director Frank Nissen's movie, which was written by Brian Hohlfeld (who also wrote 2003's "Piglet's Big Movie") and Evan Spiliotopoulos. Singing Carly Simon songs in the forest and returning home when your mommy calls is good. (Kath Soucie provides the voice of Roo's mom, Kanga, and Brenda Blethyn voices the formidable Mama Heffalump. Who wouldn't answer her call?)

It may sound innocent and overly simplistic — and it is — but its brief running time and feel-good message make it ideally suited for the littlest Roos out there, and their patient parents. During a time in which wall-to-wall pop culture references have become the standard in animated family fare, it's refreshing to find not a single drop of irony here.

Lichty: Movie versions of books suffer little success

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you why: Books are worth it.

"Fight Club" has been one of my all time favorite movies since the moment it blew my mind way back in high school. The suspense, the drama, the excitement and the twists inspired me to watch it over and over again until I had every detail figured out. But not until I actually picked up the book did I realize there was so much more to know.

I read "Fight Club" by Chuck Palahniuk my freshman year of college, and it was one of those books that couldn't be put down. There was so much more involved with Project Mayhem than I had ever realized. The complexity of the characters was drawn out so much further, and once again the old saying of "The book is better than the movie" proved true.

Another movie to which the saying applies is "Big Fish." Although I loved the visual masterpiece that claimed to be "from the imagination of Tim Burton," the story line could not live up to that of the Daniel Wallace novel of the same name. I wondered how Burton could say it was from his imagination, but after reading the book I understood. Although the characters were mostly the same, the similarities ended there. While it was a beautiful tale of fantasy in both forms, it was just more fun to get lost in my own imagination rather than Burton's.

Other books such as "The Joy Luck Club," "The Five People You Meet In Heaven," the Harry Potter series, "White Oleander," "Bridget Jones's Diary" and "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, can never be as good coming through

the "boob tube" as they are in the written word.

This year, blockbusters such as "The Polar Express," "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" and even "Christmas with the Kranks" (book title: "Skipping Christmas") all had previous successes in the written word. Although many, with the exception of Lemony Snicket's, had little success at the box office, the trend continues as more books become visual and more people stop reading.

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" will be a classic piece of children's literature found on the big screen this year. Although 1971's "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" was a success, the July 15 release of "Charlie" will be based more on Roald Dahl's literary classic by the same name. Not only will this be directed by Hollywood genius Burton, Willy Wonka will be played by my favorite actor of all time: the amazingly talented Johnny Depp. Regardless of how this movie turns out, I just hope parents won't stop reading to their children before bed. Teaching children to love reading is one of the most incredible tools parents can give to their kids' futures.

Although watching movies is one of my favorite pastimes, reading a great book can never be replaced. In a world where everything gets thrown at us visually, it's no wonder more and more children are having a difficult time reading. Help your future as well, and don't let reading become a thing of the past.

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