

## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

## Johnny Handsome: glitzy and mundane

By Kevin Kirk  
YELLIN' REBEL

"Johnny Handsome" is a strange movie about a deformed criminal; well acted, extremely well shot, it fails to engage the viewer emotionally. The characters are easy to understand but difficult to like, particularly when the question "why is he bothering to do this" crops up (often) with not just one but three or four of the cast members. This movie has three distinct parts, and while none are bad, none of them are exceptional.

The beginning I have no problem with. It's a bit different, and runs like a prequel synopsis, i.e., "in our last episode..." The commercial-like action is interspersed with the stark, white-on-black credits, the entire effect having a (I know this is overused) slight "Blade Runnerish" quality. Basically, and this is not giving anything away, Johnny gets betrayed, his friend is killed, Johnny goes to jail. Fine.

All this buildup leads to the second part, reconstruction, where a doctor believes that Johnny can be rehabilitated if he looks like a normal man. So begins the process, which is well done and surprisingly convincing, of turning Johnny

## Movie Review



**JOHNNY HANDSOME-** Dr. Resher (Forest Whitaker, l.) hopes that the reconstructive surgery performed on Johnny's (Mickey Rourke) face will help the felon lead a normal law-abiding life.

Handsome the elephant man into Mickey Rourke. Though the movie is half over at this point, it all feels like buildup for part three ... Which falls pretty flat. The ten-

sion mounts between Johnny's cry, who I definitely wouldn't mind choosing a new life with a new face (that I wouldn't mind having), a new of crime starting with revenge job (that I wouldn't mind having), against the two who screwed him and a girlfriend (Elizabeth Mongom- over in part one.

Johnny has a choice to make, but its never really his choice at all. A lot of film noir here and I will say no more about it.

The trouble is, at the end of the movie, after the decision has been made about which way to jump, you are not smiling, you are not crying, you shrug at your friends and murmur, "so?"

Its hard to care even a little bit about the characters. You don't love them, you don't hate them, they're just there. The acting is good, complete with speech impediment (a hint that there is a carryover even after surgery for Mickey Rourke), a few well delivered lines by the cop whos so sure Johnny will fail (played by Morgan Freeman) and some intense viciousness by one of the bad guys (Ellen Barkin) Despite this, the characters remain cardboard.

The cinematography is beautiful. No complaints here. If you want to see a visually interesting picture but don't speak the language you will enjoy this film. I wish I could recommend it, but David Horowitz would haunt my nightmares. Johnny Handsome earns a six out of ten due to the execution. The visuals were above average, the story mundane. Wait for the two dollar cheapos.

## New Voices in Theater

by Christopher Danowski

## Zygote

Zygote, an all-student theatre group, is the definitive statement on possibility. Already on its feet for a year, Todd Espeland has "taken up the reins" for the 1989-90 season. He's got energy locked into every cell, the open exchange of creative ideas in his fiber, and the desire for expression in his marrow. He's making it work. Any student with a body and a brain wishing to express her/his theatrical notions and talents is more than welcome at the meetings. They meet on Sundays (usually), and all times and additional will be posted on the Green Room bulletin board in the Alta Ham Fine Arts Building.

The key here is experiment. Open Theatre, Hallway Theatre, Flashlight Theatre, and the Almighty happening are already in the workings. They're willing to

try anything. If you've got an original script (scenes or on-acts), and monologue you'd like an audience for, and idea that hits you in the shower, or just a desire to meet people and participate in a free flow of energy and imagination, have a peek behind the Zygote scene. It's well worth the time.

## New Visions

The Poor Playwrights' Theatre (PPT) answers the call for exposure to the new and vital theatre with new and vital playwrights. It feeds the desires of both audience and writer (as well as actors, of course). It gives the audience a perfect opportunity to witness and experience a brand new work, and the playwright can hear her/his work read out loud, with public responses.

Its operation is fairly straightforward; the actors, script in hand, read

the work with attention to character, language, and rhythm. Stage directions are read to paint the verbal landscape and physical happenings. The result is a step beyond the radio play, with all the energy only a live, visual presentation can offer.

Afterward, the audience members are invited to respond to the experience in any way they deem fit. This can range anywhere from a detailed structuralistic criticism to an open and honest "I liked it." (Or the opposite response, which is rare, however.) It's the kind of event that should be experienced at least once in a lifetime, although frequent return visits are not surprising. It's a great way to spend a Friday afternoon, and the best part is, it's free.

Check the Theatre callboards on campus-publicity for future dates.

## Calendar of Events

## THEATRE

"Antigone", the classic Greek drama has been updated by Hilary Williams-Dekker and will be presented by Actors Repertory Theater at 8 p.m. on October 6, 7, 13 and 14; 2 p.m., October 7 and 7 p.m., October 12, in the Jewel Box Theatre in the Clark County Library. The production is free. Call 647-SHOW for details.

"Celebration," a musical by Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones, will be presented by the University Theatre at 2 p.m., October 1 and 8, and at 8 p.m., October 4, 5, 6 and 7, in the Judy Bailey Theatre. \$7 general admission, \$5 students under 18, seniors, military and handicapped. 739-3353.

## FILM

"Casablanca," the classic film starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman, will be shown at 7:30 p.m., October 6 as part of the "American Classic Film Series" sponsored by the City of Las Vegas. Admission is \$1. 386-6383.

## MUSIC

The Las Vegas Civic Orchestra will perform at 3 p.m., October 8, in the Reed Whipple Cultural Center. \$5 adults, \$# students, seniors and handicapped. Sponsored by the City of Las Vegas. 386-6211.

Jimmy Cook, saxophone, plays "Jazz at the Hob Nob," Wednesdays from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., in the Hob Nob Lounge. 734-2426.

Jennie Mistie, vocals and the Last Generation Jazz Band perform Sundays from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Moulin Rouge Club, 900 West Bonanza. 648-5040.

The Sorta Dixie Jazz Band performs from noon to 5:30 p.m., daily except Saturday and Sunday, in the Gold Coast

Casino East Lounge. 367-7111.

The New Orleans Jazz Band performs nightly from 4 to 8 p.m., except Mondays, in the Bourbon Street Casino. 737-7200.

## VISUAL ARTS

exhibits opening this week:

"Ansel Adams Portfolio," images by the noted photographer will be shown October 7 through 26, in the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society located in Lorenzi Park. Hours are 8:30 to 4:30 daily. 486-5205.

"Southern France: Spain, Italy and France," photographs by Michael Plyer, will be displayed in the Clark County Library's Main and Photographic galleries from October 3 through November 7. 435-0919.

## continuing exhibits

"The Civilized Condition," an exhibit of wall and floor sculptures by Diane J. Butner, will be displayed in the Spring Valley Library through October 31. 435-0919.

New ceramic work by California artist Leslie Safarik will be displayed in the Green Valley Library through October 29. 435-0919.

"Glamour and Allure: the Hollywood Photographs of George Hurrell," can be seen in the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Lorenzi Park. 486-5205.

## FESTIVALS

Art in the Park," a two day extravaganza sponsored by Boulder City Hospital Auxiliary, will be held in Boulder City Bicentennial Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., October 7 and 8. 293-2034.