

Fall Movie Preview: The Year's Next Wave Approaches

BY DANNY KIM
STAFF WRITER

Traditionally, after the ephemeral fanfare of the summer has died down, less commercially-oriented films are released. These films can range from a dark and dreary "Schindler's List" to the exotic "Pulp Fiction."

This is not always the case, but one might not expect to see films such as "Quiz Show" or "The Shawshank Redemption" during the summer season.

This fall and winter's lineup of films promises to be as good as any in recent years. Apologies for not being able to preview all of the hundred-some fall releases. Warning: The included short previews include story elements which may ruin your spontaneous enjoyment of these pictures.

Strange Days

If I could only see one movie for the rest of the year, judging from the trailer and the press release, I would choose "Strange Days." Ralph Fiennes, best known for his Oscar-nominated role in "Schindler's List" as the sadistic Nazi Commandant, Amon Goethe, stars in the James Cameron-produced/Kathryn Bigelow-directed film. Most encouraging is that "Strange Days" features top notch actors and a dynamic storyline.

Set in a decaying Los Angeles (a la "Bladerunner"), two days before the end of the millennium, people are able to record memories into digital recordings and play them back through other people's minds. Lenny Nero (Fiennes) deals in memory clips, and under-

stands their power to create experiences. And with the vast population in Los Angeles, his customer base is limitless.

The situation becomes tense when Iris, Lenny's former partner-in-crime, is brutally murdered, and Lenny plays back the murder, not knowing the contents of the clip. Inevitably, the murder of Iris leads Lenny into the mind of a hideously twisted killer. The film also stars Angela Bassett ("What's Love Got to Do With It?") and Juliette Lewis ("Natural Born Killers").

I remember reading about an enormous rave in downtown Los Angeles sometime last semester, which was put on for a film production. Apparently, the rave was staged for a lavish New Year's Eve scene in "Strange Days."

A notable piece to this film is that it was shown at this year's New York Film Festival, which tends to frown upon commercialism. Consequently, one has to believe there is some merit to this film.

Release Date: October 13th

Broken Arrow

Following his stint as Vincent Vega in the ultra-popular "Pulp Fiction," John Travolta takes on the role of a government stealth pilot in "Broken Arrow," a film directed by the master of action, John Woo.

Christian Slater ("Heathers") co-stars as Riley Hale, also a government stealth pilot, who races against Vic Deakins (Travolta) to recover a nuclear weapon which endangers world peace. Samantha Mathis ("Little Women") plays Christian Slater's love interest, and former football

great Howie Long makes his movie debut as a key military figure. Should be full of some great shots; as for the content, it's anyone's guess.

Release Date: December 8th

Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls

Hot on the heels of "Batman Forever" comes Jim Carrey's latest picture, "Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls."

Ace is summoned from the Himalayas to find the missing sacred animal of a tribe in the jungles of Africa before the wedding of the Wachati Princess (Sophia Okonedo) to the prince of the warrior Wachootos. If he fails, a tribal war will result.

Steve Oedekerk makes his film directorial debut with this film. Oedekerk met Carrey at "The Comedy Store". Since then, they have worked together on "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective" and "In Living Color". Will this picture be worth seeing? Well, like the first Ace Ventura film, it won't please everyone.

Release Date: November 10th



Ralph Fiennes and Angela Bassett star in the James Cameron produced, "Strange Days".

Please see Fall—6

UNLV English professor publishes 'novel of witness'

BY MICHELLE SHENSKY
A&E EDITOR

Doug Unger's office is located on the 6th floor of Flora Dungan Humanities Building.

When you walk in you notice a funky old couch sitting against one wall. It's a comfortable old couch, but more importantly it once belonged to poet Hayden Carruth and many a friend slept on it. People like Richard Wilbur and Robert Frost sometimes crashed at Carruth's home in Vermont—on that couch.

"The couch isn't just for novelty, it does have some sentimental value," says Unger. "I hope that some inspiration comes from all of the great poets who have slept here."

Unger has obviously drawn on that inspiration. The Pulitzer Prize nominee has published four books. His latest, "Voices from Silence," was just released.

Unger, who has an MFA from the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, said his decision to begin writing started with the protest against the war in Vietnam. "I was in the streets protesting in Chicago and other sites after my brother returned home from the war 100 percent disabled."

Prompted by his brother's

demise, Unger began photographing anti-war demonstrations and writing about the impact it was having on America.

As a journalism major at the University of Chicago, Unger decided to experiment with writing fiction; an exercise he discovered he liked it. He moved to New York City and applied his talents as a writer. "I managed to make some earnings while there," says Unger. Unger's first novel, "Leaving the Land," led to his nomination for the Pulitzer Prize. Unger's later novels include "El Yanqui" and "The Turkey War."

His fourth novel released this month, "Voices from Silence," by St. Martin's Press, deals with the effort of one family seeking justice for the loss of their sons who were counted among the missing during the reign of a ruthless military regime in Argentina during the 1970s.

"The disappeared" was the name given to the many thousands of Argentines who, because of their liberal political leanings, were snatched from homes, offices and the streets. Thousands were imprisoned, and some murdered. Because family and friends often had no idea what had happened to their loved ones, those missing were referred to as "the disappeared."

Unger based this book on the experiences of a real Argentine family with whom he lived as a high school exchange student. He calls the book a "novel of witness," seeking to tell the truth about the events in Argentina, in a dramatic, compelling fashion.

"It was a personal and continual grieving process to write the book," Unger said. "On the other hand, now that it's completed, I feel that at least there's some sort of elegy and some sort of monument left behind to those people I love who are numbered among the disappeared."

Unger will read from his latest novel, "Voices from Silence," at 7:30 p.m. tonight as part of the University Forum lecture series. The reading, which is free to the public, will be in the auditorium of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History on campus.

The University Forum lecture series is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts. Unger's reading is also being sponsored by the UNLV Foundation.

A book signing will be held at Bookstar at 3910 Maryland Parkway on Friday between 4:30 -7 p.m.

'Oleanna' takes a look at political correctness

BY JAMES KIM
STAFF WRITER

The idea of political correctness was explored in detail last Wednesday at the Judy Bayley Theater. The evening opened with the University Theater's performance of David Mamet's play, *Oleanna*, and concluded with a panel discussion by a group of local legal experts. The play was originally produced in the summer, but raised so many questions regarding various legal and moral issues that the department of theater arts decided to revive it.

The play takes place entirely within a professor's office and involves two players: Carol, a college student, and John, the professor. Carol has a great deal of difficulty understanding the subject matter of John's course and visits his office for help. John attempts to assist her, but his efforts are seriously hampered due to a mutual lack of effective communication.

This communication problem results in a series

of misunderstandings that eventually lead to a charge of sexual harassment. John, who is about to become a tenured professor at the university, desperately tries to get Carol to rescind her allegation. When she refuses, he gets very angry and forcefully grabs her by the arm.

In the last act of the play, Carol accuses him of attempted rape and instructs him on the finer points of politically correct language. John eventually loses all self control and physically assaults her. (Interestingly, the audience let out a roar of approval when this occurred.)

Mamet's play perfectly illustrates the complexities that are involved when dealing with a highly charged issue such as political correctness. While most of Carol's allegations were unfounded, and largely irresponsible, it was apparent that the professor was guilty of some amount of sexist conduct. Needless to say, the professor's ac-

Please see Oleanna—6

READ
the
REBEL

CORRECTION

The Internet address for Performing Arts Center ticket purchases published in the AUG. 31 issue of *The Rebel Yell* was incorrect.

The correct address is: [HTTP://PAC.NEVADA.EDU](http://PAC.NEVADA.EDU).