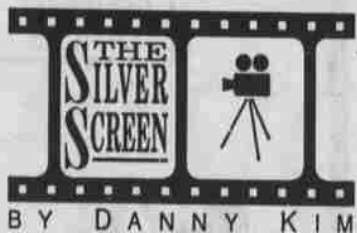


Seven: Beautiful in a gothic sort of way

A film review on the week's number one box office film in America



Seven
(1995, Drama/Horror)

Cast
Brad Pitt
Morgan Freeman
Gwyneth Paltrow
Directed by David Fincher

(Out of a possible ten)
Acting: 7
Cinematography: 10
Character Development: 8
Musical Score & Soundtrack: 9

Overall Rating: 91%



Morgan Freeman shows early signs of senility by holding up only five fingers in "Seven."

Before you label me as being deranged, let me explain my thoughts on why I thought *Seven* was a very attractive piece. Also, if you have not watched *Seven*, do not read the section titled "The Mysterious Murderer" on page 7.

My favorite films are *Bladerunner* and *Godfather II*. Between the cool tones of scattered light in *Bladerunner* and the warm oak yellow tones of *Godfather II*, *Seven* captures the best of both. At times, during chase scenes in *Seven*, I am constantly reminded of the frantic pace of the Deckard/Zhora chase scene in *Bladerunner*. *Seven* also appears to be inspired by some of the distinctive characterizations and cinematography from *Silence of the Lambs*.

Perhaps some of the beauty of *Seven* can be attributed to a color enhancing procedure (C.C.E.) which was used to bring out richer colors and more contrast. "We shot in a very stylized way through the use of unique camera angles and lighting effects. We created lots of shadows and silhouettes. We are also using a film developing process that enhances the tonal quality of lightness darkness on celluloid, invoking richer darks and

brighter whites," director of photography, Darius Khonji explains.

Seven's director, David Fincher, has done some fairly lavish, but empty productions (see Madonna's *Vogue* music video and *Alien 3*). Being disappointed with *Alien 3*, I was anticipating a picture which might take Fincher's photographic skills and combine them with an intriguing storyline. Quickly becoming his trademark style, at times during *Seven*, the spastic nature of Fincher's photography is reminiscent of Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*, i.e. aliens dizzily darting down steel air ducts.

Trying to capture the convoluted nature of a big city, Fincher, set designers, and

cinematographers collaborated in creating spectacular sets.

Each of the sins is characterized by colors and tones. For instance, the gluttony murder scene is highlighted by reds and golds. One must appreciate the lengths that production went to create the right look and style for *Seven*. Would it be too much of a stretch to call it beautiful?

Okay, maybe seeing a 500 pound guy stark naked on top of a coroner's steel table isn't exactly my idea of beauty, but it's hard not to appreciate the multitude of brilliant shots (it would take quite some time to dissect this movie from a cin-

ematographer's standpoint).

Even the victim of gluttony (I'm not doing much to disprove my gruesome taste in films) possessed his own external beauty, his pearly, marbled skin looking somewhat like a creation of the morbid Swiss artist, H.R. Giger.

Brad Pitt does not have any sort of breakthrough role in *Seven*. If anything, he digresses in complexity from his role as Tristan in *Legends of the Fall* (which is not saying much). However, one must appreciate Pitt's unrest with playing typecast roles, taking films such as *Interview with the Vampire*, *Kalifornia*, and

True Romance (who says big name actors can't act high?).

Surprisingly, Morgan Freeman's role as William Somerset upstages Brad Pitt's character of David Mills. With *Seven*, Morgan Freeman reinforces his status as a top-notch actor with film credits such as *Glory*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Lean on Me*, and *The Shawshank Redemption*. He also made his directorial feature debut with *Bopha!*, starring Danny Glover.

The film fades into the midst of a murder scene, non-important to the central plot. The dialogue is just a bit

See *Seven* pg. 7

No UNLV-TV for dorm residents

Prime Cable and R.H.A. can't come to terms

BY BRIAN KUCHAR
STAFF WRITER

UNLV students who reside on campus do not have access to UNLV-TV, the campus TV station which airs on Prime Cable Channel 4.

Because cable is not available in the dorm rooms, students only have access to channels which can be received by antenna. However, some rooms cannot even get those channels due to interference. The lounges on each floor have a few cable stations, such as CNN and ESPN but UNLV-TV is not available.

Steve Schorr, general manager at Prime Cable Systems, said the school does not have a contract with his company to put cable in the dorm rooms.

"It's has always been a desire to install cable in the rooms," Schorr said. Prime Cable approached UNLV when the new residential halls were being built several years ago, but Schorr said the college did not want cable to be installed, despite their offer of free installation.

Schorr said students who

wanted cable in their dorm room would have been charged a nominal monthly fee by the university, and dorm residents who did not want their cable hookup turned on would not be charged. This is similar to the procedures Prime Cable uses when installing cable in apartment complexes.

Schorr added that Prime Cable would still be willing to install cable at no charge to the university. UNLV has thus far declined Prime Cable's offers.

"The plan was to install cable TV...at the last minute, the contract between the university and Prime Cable could not come to terms," said Terry Piper, UNLV assistant vice president for student life.

Piper explained that there are two phases for installing cable on campus.

Phase I, which was recently completed, includes 12 cable stations in each lounge. UNLV-TV is not included.

Piper said the proposal for Phase II was turned down last year by the Residential Hall Association, because of an estimated \$250,000 installation fee for cable and Internet access. However, the proposal is still being discussed.

Schorr, however, contradicted the dollar amount in a telephone interview, saying that his company would install it for free.

Piper would like to give cable access to students without them having to pay the monthly service charge, and said he wanted to control the rates to students and not have the students pay directly to Prime Cable.

Piper also said if Phase II is implemented, a \$50 per semester increase in residence tuition may have to be charged to cover the installation and maintenance costs to the university. The increase would be implemented over a three-year period.

Many residential students say they would like cable TV in their rooms.

"I don't really know anything about UNLV-TV, but I would give it a chance if we had cable. I do, however, resent the fact that I was denied to choose whether I want cable in my room or not," said freshman Manuel Lugo.

"I do think we should have cable with access to UNLV-TV. We should be able to watch MTV and other channels," noted freshman Heather Guio.

Residential students who would like to participate in the decision-making process of Phase II can contact their floor representative.

Innovative senior theatre program is a chance to discover creativity

Standing outside of the Paul Harris Theater on the UNLV campus, you might think from the brisk warm-up music, excited chatter, explosions of laughter, and earnest note-taking that you were listening to young 18-year-old freshmen. In fact you were listening to a typical class of senior adults learning to act at UNLV.

They are part of the Senior Adult Theatre Program, the pioneering program that Dr. Ann McDonough helped found, along with Dr. Jeff Koep, interim dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts. The program is going into its seventh year.

"The grandparent set," according to McDonough, "often voice a real fear of having to memorize lines because it is a skill they didn't foster in the years they were working and raising families."

After working with hundreds of older students, McDonough learned that traditional methods of teaching acting needed to be adapted to students who often have special physical conditions. For instance, "older actors perhaps with the exception

of veteran performers Jack Palance, Carol Channing, and Katherine Hepburn, simply cannot warm up the way younger actors warm up. Young actors roll around on the floor, stand on their heads, and do handsprings," McDonough said.

According to McDonough studies in gerontology show that older adults participating in theater tend to feel better emotionally and physically: They make new friends, feel intellectually stimulated, and get a physical workout. The program attracts a range of students from housewives to business men, and factory workers.

Another element about the senior adult theater at UNLV is that it offers an arena for older and younger students to bridge the age gap and have the opportunity to work together.

"We are laying the groundwork for generations to come in terms of course work, new plays, research upon which future generations will found new programs," said McDonough,

See *Senior* pg. 7