

Viewing pleasure

Film fans on campus find flicks that educate, amuse and inflame

SU film series: Backed by popular demand

By JOE PARKHILL
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

You may not realize it, but the Student Union film series is a daily undertaking. Every weekday at 8 p.m., and eight times over the weekend, they put on movies for students to enjoy. "It provides an alternative for students, opportunities people wouldn't have had. It provides culture and an awareness as well," SU film chairwoman and junior Kate Temoney said.

The SU film committee meets for an hour every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., and its meetings are open to anyone, not just film committee members. In addition to participating in the meetings, the 15 members hang up posters, collect tickets and decide on



Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Hugh Grant and Julianne Moore star in *Nine Months*, showing Dec. 8-10 in Pugh Auditorium.



Courtesy of Excalibur Films

Student Union showed *Kids* to about 1,400 people last week.

the movies to show. Junior Tesh Ramey, a film committee assistant, said, "The committee is very low-maintenance."

She said the tasks are minimal, yet the members benefit from free movies, posters and food. "We are just a bunch of people who enjoy movies, and want to pick movies that others will enjoy," Temoney said.

The film committee's biggest task is deciding what movies to play in Pugh Auditorium. SU has licensing contracts with two movie distributors, Film Inc., and Swank; the committee usually picks the movies it purchases from these two firms.

The members can be creative and choose movies based around themes. A recent example is the Jim Carrey weekend, playing *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, *Dumb and Dumber* and *The Mask*.

The Fright Fest over Halloween spooked its spectators with *The Shining*, *Poltergeist* and *Silence of the Lambs*.

For December 1-3 the Film Committee is planning an AIDS awareness weekend, which will touch its audience with *Philadelphia* and *The Cure*.

Deciding on the movies is a difficult task. The committee has to consider what students will enjoy and what the Student Union film series can afford. "Wake Forest students are very unpredictable in their tastes," Temoney said.

Movies the film committee thinks they will enjoy sometimes attract only small crowds.

The Jim Carrey weekend had less than 200 spectators during eight showings. *The Shawshank Redemption*, on the other hand, which played in the middle of the week, practically filled the auditorium.

The film committee purchases very recent movies. Recent 16mm films, not yet on video, are available but are expensive. These movies are usually played on weekends, with an admission charge of \$2.

The other movies purchased are already on video and are less expensive, yet may be less popular among student tastes.

These movies are purchased to give students the opportunity to enjoy free movies they might not ordinarily see.

But this year's moviegoers have not been as active as those of past years.

When asked why she does not attend the movies in Pugh, sophomore Meredith Goodrum said, "I just do not have time. I am too busy."

Others say it doesn't even occur to them.

Sophomore Judy Ariganello said, "I just do not think of it."

Temoney also attributed the smaller attendance to the lack of variety of movies this semester. Temoney said that the film committee may have picked too many "blockbuster" movies this year.

In the past, some of the most popular films in the series have been foreign and art films such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *The Piano* and *Like Water for Chocolate*.

Revenue from weekend movies is essential to the film committee's operation because the money earned from these screenings pays for the movies. "The budget we get (from SU) is not small. We do not generate that much revenue from (the series)," Temoney said.

In fact, the only profitable film so far this semester has been *Kids*. Approximately 1,400 people attended this controversial film.

There was no opposition to its screening, Ramey said. "Nobody else was showing it in the area. It was a realistic movie and I thought it should be shown."

Last year, *Midnight Cowboy*, an X-rated film, was shown without problems.

The *Kids* showings incorporated several things that the Student Union film series plans to do more of in the future. Professors, such as Christy Buchanan, an assistant professor of psychology, Mark Pezzo, an instructor in psychology and Jonathon Epstein, a visiting instructor in sociology, led discussion groups after the film.

They discussed such issues as how realistic the film was, what director Larry Clark was trying to do, and why the movie ended the way it did.

The committee sent letters asking professors to participate on the panels.

The letter also told professors that next semester, they will be able to play any movie they want on weekdays in Pugh Auditorium as long as the film committee is notified five weeks in advance.

Professors will be able to show movies to supplement their in-class teaching or to stimulate student interest in their fields.

Earlier this semester the film series invited Ken Mattingly, an astronaut on Apollo 13, to speak on campus. Mattingly's agent had called Temoney, asking if the university would like Mattingly to come and speak.

She directed the agent to SU lecture chairman Scott Brawley, who coordinated the lecture with the showing of *Apollo 13*.

More variety is the watchword for next semester's series. The film committee hopes to show such offbeat movies as *Four Rooms*, a movie from the perspective of four different directors and *Get Shorty*, a current movie that is enjoying some success at the box office.

A final ploy planned to increase the attendance during the week is organizing giveaways.

Hoop Dreams enjoyed much success earlier this semester when a free basketball was distributed at each showing.

As for next semester's movie plans, the committee has already chosen features for the first four weekends. *The Brady Bunch* will amuse its spectators Jan 19-21; *Clueless* with Alicia Silverstone will play Jan 26-28; *Seven* will play Feb. 2-4 and *Minbo, or the Gentle Art of Japanese Extortion*, a Japanese movie with English subtitles will be shown Feb. 9-11.

Minbo is a film about the Japanese Mafia and will add variety to SU's feature presentations.



Courtesy of Excalibur Films

Pugh Auditorium was the only venue in Winston-Salem that played the controversial film *Kids*.

Both Americans, Japanese have yen for anime

By LYNSEY WOOD
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Enthusiasm for Japanese animation is spreading rapidly on an international scale. Comic books as thick as telephone books, called manga, can be found on subway seats in Tokyo and in the hands of students and professors alike here in Winston-Salem.

The animation itself, called anime, is not like the Warner Brothers and Disney images that come to most Americans' minds. In both manga and anime, cartoons encompass adult themes such as violence, environmentalism and pornography.

Joanne Izbicki, an assistant professor of history, first glimpsed anime at a noodle shop in Japan 14 years ago. It was "the most appealing animation I'd ever seen in my life," she said.

Freshman Jourdan Bickham first became interested in anime at age 15. "It destroyed everything I'd ever seen by Disney," he said.

Bickham's friend's father, who had been stationed in Japan, returned with several anime videos. His selection was of the more violent, bloody genre, and 15-year-old Jourdan was instantly attracted. "Soon I was renting everything I could find in the store and was always pressing them to order more," he said.

Izbicki's favorite manga series, "Ranma 1/2" by Takahashi Rumiko, subtly discusses the gender issues in Japanese society through the trials of a father and a son.

The two characters mutate when cold water is thrown onto them and can only change back with hot water. The father turns into a panda and the son into a girl.

This gender change presents infinite possibilities for comic storylines and lots of amusing shower scenes.

Among the more serious series is "Barefoot Gen," which describes a young boy's experience following the bombing of Hiroshima. Anime shows the massive devastation in a simplistic, more understandable way.

"[Filmmakers] couldn't have the same impact with today's film and movies," Izbicki said.

The characters in both manga and anime are of diverse ethnic backgrounds, and little thought is given to such distinctions.

Izbicki said she saw a huge surge in interest while earning her Ph.D. at Cornell University. In 1987, a group of eight watched anime videos on a television set while one person translated throughout the film.

By 1995, the university was showing several anime films with subtitles every Saturday night in an auditorium holding about 150 people.

Manga comics can be found locally at Heroes Aren't Hard to Find Comics in Silas Creek Crossing Shopping Center.

Speaking Spanish

OLD GOLD AND BLACK STAFF REPORT

The Department of Romance Languages has organized an experimental Cine Club that watches Latin American films and discusses them in Spanish. Films are shown every other Tuesday in Tribble A3, and discussion is held afterward.

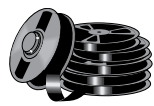
The club is an extension of the Latin American film festival held each spring. Any student can watch the films and participate in the discussion, said Linda Howe, an instructor in romance languages.

Howe is an organizer of the film series. The next film shown will be *Maria Antonia* at 6 p.m. Nov. 29. It will be the final showing for this semester.

Study break

Here is the SU film schedule for the rest of the semester:

Movies are free unless otherwise noted. All showings are in Pugh Auditorium.



- Today: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, 8 p.m.
- This weekend: *The Net*, 8 and 11 p.m. **Friday and Saturday**; 3 and 8 p.m. **Sunday**, \$2.
- Monday: *The Net*, 8 p.m., \$2.
- Nov. 27 and 28: *Basic Instinct*, 8 p.m.
- Nov. 29 and 30: *Pump up the Volume*, 8 p.m.
- Dec. 1-3: **AIDS awareness double feature**, \$2. *Philadelphia*, 7 p.m. **Friday and Saturday**; 6 p.m. **Sunday**; *The Cure*, 9:30 p.m. **Friday and Saturday**; 8:30 p.m. **Sunday**.
- Dec. 4-5: *Sleepless in Seattle*, 8 p.m.
- Dec. 6-7: *Stand by Me*, 8 p.m.
- Dec. 8: **Timberland promotional**, \$2. *Nine Months*, 7 p.m.; *The River Wild*, 9 p.m.
- Dec. 9-10: *Nine Months*, 8 and 11 p.m. **Saturday**; 3 and 8 p.m. **Sunday**.

Offbeat and issue-based films highlight Philomathesian series

By LEE ELLEN SKELTON
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The Student Union film series has popular films covered. But the Philomathesian Society, promotes awareness of the arts and humanities through forums, their publication, *The Philo-mathesian*, and a film series.

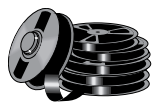
The film committee works to provide films that are different from the mainstream.

"It's not that the mainstream films are bad — they're not at all. We just want to show something that is different, something

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The rest of this semester's Philomathesian films:

All films are free and play in Tribble A-3.



- Saturday: *Hollywood Shuffle*, 8 p.m.
- Sunday: *Shaft*, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 3: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, 4 p.m.

that the students wouldn't get a chance to see otherwise," said Kristina Hemphill, a senior and the co-chairwoman of the committee.

The Philomathesians often choose films that fall into one of three categories: foreign, old and artistic films.

However, this is not always the case.

Senior Jason Bennett, a member of the film committee, said, "We usually go by whatever the group is into at the time. We try to offer a wide variety of films, not just intellectual or foreign films but films that are different from what the students have seen and yet ones that would still interest them."

Anticipated student body interest is taken into account by the film committee to make programming decisions. But the personal interests of the committee members help the committee to make decisions about what specific films to show.

For instance, one member had a great interest in Paul Newman and as the society was looking for a classic film to show, they decided on *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Though the final decision is made by the committee, everyone's interests are considered.

One way to assess this interest is to look at the films that draw the biggest crowds.

When the Philomathesians showed the *Star Wars* series last fall, it was an unusual

choice. Usually they show less well-known films, and the response to this perennial favorite was overwhelming.

They were amazed not only at the number of people who attended but also at how much people knew about the *Star Wars* series.

"It's not that the mainstream films are bad — they're not at all. We just want to show something that is different, something that the students wouldn't get a chance to see otherwise."

Kristina Hemphill
Co-chairwoman, Philomathesian film committee

Another film series that was extremely popular was Krzysztof Kieslowski's three films, *Blue*, *White* and *Red*. Jude Stewart, a senior and a co-chairwoman of the film committee, said, "These films are visually stunning. We got a big response from them because of their recent release but also because they are beautiful movies."

"The director has a strong eye and really brought out the diversity of the series. They

all worked together and really have a lot to offer, especially bringing in the strong French art tradition."

Red is the only film in the series that has not yet been shown.

But because of the response for the other two, it will definitely be on the film series' lineup in the future.

Crowd size isn't the only factor that determines whether or not a film is well received.

The films shown often provoke much discussion, and this is a major criterion as well. In fact, after some films the committee sets up formal discussion groups and occasionally even brings in a guest speaker.

These guest speakers have not been as prevalent lately because the Philomathesians' energy been directed toward other areas.

But that hasn't stopped discussion among the students. Indeed, informal discussion based on the films quite often breaks out among the students who have viewed them.

Stewart said this discussion is a good tool for the committee to use in order to determine the success of the films with their audiences.

"We tend to have some of the same people attending the films so I will often talk to them afterwards to see what they thought," Stewart said.

Just as many of the committee members

have certain preferences for movies or actors, so does their audience.

Some people will approach the committee with films that they would like to have shown.

This was the case with *Raise the Red Lantern*, which was shown two weeks ago.

The society has also shown a few controversial films that address current issues as well.

Last year, it showed *Roger and Me*, a documentary about a General Motors plant that closed down in Flint, Mich.

Another set of controversial films is coming up this weekend. These films, *Hollywood Shuffle* and *Shaft*, have been termed "blaxploitation." They deal with black issues using black actors.

Some profess these films to be ground-breaking and part of the reason for showing them is to delve into the issues they are addressing and evaluate whether or not they really are.

A speaker may help foster the discussion and address the issues shown in the films.

The discussions will probably revolve around race, how it is portrayed in film, and how it is perceived in film.

It is these kinds of issues and the discussion they spark that the film committee strives to promote.