

# Features

## “Bagger Vance” misses its mark Family dysfunction

**Seth Horner**  
Staff Writer

“The Legend of Bagger Vance,” based on a novel by Steven Pressfield, drives to be a big hit.

The film takes an artistic cinematic approach with beautiful shot composition and low-key character development.

It is set in the depression era of the 1930s, but chooses not to confront any of the issues from the period.

Also missing from the film are the racial issues in the South during this time period. The movie remains focused on the story at hand, which was limited because context and setting, as you know, are essential.

The story is told through the eyes of Hardy Greaves (Jack Lemmon of “The Odd Couple”), whose childhood was marked by a pivotal golf tournament held in his hometown of Savannah, Georgia.

This golf tournament is produced in an attempt to prevent the foreclosure of a country club owned by wealthy Savannah heiress Adele Invergordon (Charlize Theron).

The plot development surrounds the golf club’s efforts to find a third player who will represent the town of Savannah.

The town finds Rannulph Junah,



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS

“The Legend of Bagger Vance” storyline revolves around a golf tournament and stars Matt Damon and Will Smith.

once a great golfer, WWI vet and Adele’s ex-lover.

Junah has been away from golf, spending his time playing poker and drinking his life away with his buddies.

That is, until he runs into Bagger Vance (Will Smith), mystery-man caddie who becomes his mentor. Vance hopes to get Junah’s life

back in order by getting him back

to the golf superstar that he once was.

There is mystery surrounding Smith’s character of Vance because his sole motivation is to redeem Junah to the slick southern golfer that he used to be.

Many scenes suggest that maybe he is some angelic figure sent to Junah to guarantee his success, but if Smith is the God of Golf, players everywhere are in trouble.

It is not until about 30 minutes into the film that we meet Bagger Vance. After the two meet, much of the rest of the movie deals with their interactions.

As mentioned before, the film could be applauded for its attention to detail for cinematic effect. Many of the shots are simply beautiful, but I will say that the story line may not be for everyone (especially if you do not like lessons in history and golf.)

Robert Redford has proved himself to be an excellent director, but this is not his best work. “The Legend of Bagger Vance” simply does not pull you into the story like we see in some of Redford’s other productions such as “The Horse Whisperer.”

Redford was instead trying to create some reality-based fantasy that turned out to be unconvincing. By leaving out some of reality during

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**Casey Blankenship**  
Staff Writer

The Southern Circuit Independent Film Series showed the documentary, “One of Us,” in Robinson lecture hall on Nov. 9.

The film is a personal journey through the past for filmmaker Susan Korda, who tries to recreate some of the painful moments of her childhood so as to understand them as an adult.

The story is fascinating, but the film itself is confusing and discordant with clashing images from a variety of film clips spliced together. The film was inconsistent and hard to follow.

Interspersed in her narrative is footage from the movie “Freaks” and also images of the “Three Stooges.” Adding to the feel of the story is the soundtrack of German songs from the 1930s with chanteuses such as Marlene Dietrich singing torch songs.

Korda’s penchant for the absurdities of life comes through as her story starts out in a barrage of footage from childhood outings. Her mother looks like a model from the 1950s, and is definitely not like the mother of three children or a woman who fled Nazi Germany.

The film follows Korda as she

travels to Germany where she interviews elderly women on such painful topics, such as their experiences with abortion and abuse. Then, in an abrupt change of pace, she has these women speaking frankly with her about erotica and their sexual pasts.

On a bench in Germany, she comes across a broken and discarded garden dwarf, the type of lawn ornament you would not expect to

see in downtown Berlin. Korda adopts the dwarf and takes pictures with it, even journeying back to

New York City with it.

In Germany, there are billboards urging parents to spend time with their children. The billboards feature the bodies of babies with the head of a dog or cat. This confused me, since it seems to imply that families love their pets more than their own children. Korda’s sarcasm is shown as she comments on the condition of Germany with a biting humor that leaves a sting. She includes herself in these tirades of bitterness.

Her remarks on Germany’s past oppression run parallel with her stories of growing up where Hitler was more present in her childhood than her father or mother. Child-

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### Review

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### The Creative Writing Program Presents Robert Morgan

Robert Morgan, the P.B. Parris Visiting Writer, will read selections from his body of work on Nov. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Owen Conference Center.

Morgan’s work includes “The Hinterlands,” “The Truest Pleasure,” and “Gap Creek.” This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact call 251-6411.

### Film and lecture focus on media effects on women’s health

“Slim Hopes,” a film by Jean Kilbourne, and a presentation by Eva Hyatt, a professor of consumer marketing will be held in the Humanities Auditorium on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m.

The event, sponsored by Jane for Change and W.A.I.L., will analyze how female bodies are depicted in advertising imagery and their effects on women’s health.

### International poetry readings in the Laurel Forum

Heatwaters and The Literature Club offer an evening of international poetry. Come and hear poems read in Spanish, German, old English, Middle English, Hebrew, Greek, and French and many other languages as well as free food.

The event will be held on Nov. 20 at 9 p.m. in the Laurel Forum.



What does the game of baseball, Jell-o, and a paper sack all have in common? We didn’t know either, but we know some people who might!

Come out on **Saturday, November 18!** Take part in this interactive comedy improv troupe—No two shows are alike because you create the show!

**Free!!**

**Free!! Free!!**

Underdog Productions, the UNC-A Drama Department, and Housing & Residence Life present...

**COMEDYSPORTZ**

9:30 p.m. in the Highsmith Center Lounge- Saturday, November 18