

Union films feature mixed bag of popular, obscure works

By IVY HILLIARD
Staff Writer

The Carolina Union film committee offers a unique blend of seldom-seen films and quality popular films in its spring schedule, but these final selections represent just a portion of the total number considered during a long selection process.

Committee chairman Tori Ralston said that each semester the committee selects about 15 genres, or film categories, to be covered in the semester. Each committee member is then assigned a genre and must bring back selections for the committee to critique before voting on final selections.

This semester the printed film schedules were not ready during preregistration, but should arrive today or tomorrow.

Film committee member Tom Wiley said that this semester there were only two weeks between sessions to get the schedules printed, so about half of the committee helped to write individual film blurbs because there was not enough time to let one or two people handle the job.

But the biggest struggle during the two-month selection process, according to Ralston, often is deciding on more popular films versus more esoteric ones.

"There is a tendency to want to make (the schedule) very esoteric," Ralston said, "but we also want to get popular

films, especially on admission nights, to reach the audience who only occasionally go out to films. So we go back and forth until we get the mix right."

Wiley said finding good Friday-night films was a particular problem this semester because there were not a lot of good American films to choose from that had been released in the last six months.

"One of the films we really wanted was *Ghostbusters*," Wiley said. "It wasn't available, but we did get *Splash*, which was one of the few really good popular films."

A few of the Friday admission night films of note this semester are *Repo Man*, to be shown this Friday, *Terms of Endearment* (Jan. 25), *Romancing the Stone* (March 15), *Sophie's Choice* (March 29), and *Purple Rain* (April 12).

Ralston said she was particularly pleased with this semester's film festival because it is more thematic than those of past years.

The festival, titled "Semi-Autobiographical Reflections on Film-making," will feature films from five different directors who use their work to look at themselves and their craft.

Beginning Jan. 24 with Federico Fellini's *8 1/2*, the festival also features Preston Sturges' *Sullivan's Travels* (Jan. 31), Woody Allen's *Stardust Memories* (Feb. 7), Bob Fosse's *All That Jazz* (Feb. 15), and Francois

Truffaut's *Day for Night* (Feb. 21).

"This is a really different festival, since most center around just one director or genre," Ralston said. "This was a rare case where a committee member, Robert McDaniels, brought the idea to the committee all set, and all we had to do was narrow the choices from 10 to five films."

Film committee member Patricia Miller said this festival would be more challenging, especially if people see the whole series.

"We'll be giving out film pamphlets to give viewers an idea of what the directors are doing and how the films

work as a unit, since all the films are so diverse," Miller said.

The film committee also scheduled several other special movie nights, including "B-B Movie Night" on Jan. 26, "Silent Horror Double Feature Night" Feb. 13, "Film Noir Night" March 13, a "Social Commentary Double Feature" March 18, and the annual "Sci-Fi Night" March 30.

Ralston said the committee had difficulty finding several other selections on the schedule, including *Burroughs* (Jan. 21) and *Boat People* (March 27).

Miller said the committee was very careful to make selections that cannot

be seen easily on commercial or cable TV or in commercial theaters, but that she still would like to see less-mainstream foreign films from Africa, Asia and South America, as well as more films by women directors, included in the schedules.

Miller said the approximately 65 films scheduled were a mix that strained the money budget and the time budget, and many films were cut to get the best possible working number.

The grab-bag of films filling out the rest of the schedule includes *Elvira Madigan* (Jan. 20), *Koyaanisqatsi* (Feb. 10), *Midnight Express* (Feb. 23), *Eraserhead* (April 27), *Eating Rauld* (April 28), and *The Jungle Book* (May 4).

"This schedule contains masterpiece after masterpiece," Wiley said, "and I hope the audiences keep coming through mid-semester, instead of slacking off as they did in the fall."

Miller also said she hoped the schedule was balanced enough to attract a more consistent audience, the committee's chief goal.

"We are going to install a suggestion box out at the Union desk," Miller said, "and we hope people will use it to suggest titles for the current or future schedules or even to suggest technical improvements on showing the films. The students support these films financially, and we want to improve their quality as much as possible."

Campus Calendar

The Carolina Student Fund/DTH Campus Calendar will appear daily. Announcements to be run in the expanded version on Mondays and Thursdays must be placed in the box outside the Carolina Student Fund office on the third floor of South Building by 3 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Wednesday, respectively. The deadlines for the limited editions will be noon one day before the announcement is to run. Only announcements from University recognized and campus organizations will be printed.

Monday

- 6:30 p.m. Order of the Bell Tower meeting in the Union.
- 7 p.m. Karate Club video and discussion in the Union Lounge. Call Jim at 942-4382 for info. Organizational meeting for persons interested in volunteering at Umstead Psychiatric Hospital in the Union.
- Elections Board meeting in Graham Lounge of the Union.
- Dillon School volunteers organizational/informational meeting in 2nd floor Union Lounge, or call 942-1447.
- 7:30 p.m. Riding Club meeting in Union 220.

Tuesday

- 6:30 p.m. Delta Sigma Pi business meeting in T-1 New Carroll.
- 7 p.m. Senior Class Gift Committee for all interested Seniors in the Union.
- Dillon School volunteers organizational meeting in the upstairs Y Lounge.
- 8 p.m. Young Democrats general meeting in the Union.
- North Carolina Symphony will perform in Hill Hall, free. Campus Care - Alcoholics Anonymous in the Union.
- 8:30 p.m. Dungeons & Dragons Tournament in the Union. College Republicans meeting in Union 205.

Wednesday

- 6 p.m. Karate Club introductory workout in Woolen Gym Studio B.
- 7 p.m. Outing Club meeting in the Union.
- 7:30 p.m. Sports Club Council very important budget process meeting in Union 220.

The DTH Writing Test

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