

# Theatres provide broad range

By CATHERINE COWAN  
Staff Writer

Whether your cinematic taste leads you to the decadent entertainment of "Meatballs II" or the cultural brilliance of "Ran," there are several movie theaters in town and out that can serve you.

The oldest theater in Chapel Hill is the Carolina Blue and White. Located on the corner of Franklin and Columbia next to Top of the Hill, the Carolina shows first-run feature films such as "About Last Night" and "Karate Kid II." Tickets sell at \$4 with a discount price of \$2.75 for the very first showing of a new movie, said Tim Sherill, assistant manager.

The Carolina was built in 1944 and originally had piano players and other live entertainment before films. There was a different movie every day, and the manager, E.C. Smith, was a important figure in Chapel Hill. The theater was split into a two-screen operation in 1976, Sherill said.

Another favorite Chapel Hill theater is the Varsity, located on Franklin Street next to the Intimate Bookshop. Shows are \$4.50, with \$3 matinees playing before 6 p.m. on weekdays. Pat Manning, an employee at the Varsity, said the theater shows mostly art and foreign films. The Varsity used to be one theater until it was bought out by Janus Co., which turned it into an art house and made it a duplex.

One theater no one can forget is the Union Auditorium. The Union shows over 200 different movies during the school year and summer, most of which are free with a UNC I.D., said Robin Whiteside, outgoing film committee chairman. The schedule of films includes recent features,

classics and foreign films, with special speakers sometimes featured before a film. Movies are planned by students on the Film Committee, one of the 11 student-run committees within the Carolina Union, which is looking for new members for the fall. Schedules of fall movies will be available during registration.

Other theaters in Chapel Hill are the Ram Triple, located on Rosemary Street next to Molly Maguire's, and Plaza Theater on Elliott Road in Kroger Plaza. Special discounts at these theaters include a \$2 Tuesday bargain night at the Ram, and \$2.50 matinees on weekdays until 6 p.m. at the Plaza. Both theaters show first-run features.

Two theaters out of town may be of special interest to students. The Carolina Theater, located in downtown Durham, is famous for its showing of current art films. Opened in 1926 as a public auditorium, the theater is now a historic landmark, said manager Stephen Barefoot. While you are there, you can enjoy a beer or glass of wine from the theater's ballroom upstairs.

The Rialto Theater is the oldest independent single-screen operation in Raleigh. The theater shows classics, independent and foreign films, and no film stays for longer than one week, said owner Roy Harp. Often playing is a double feature of movies by the same director or with the same themes, and sometimes the theater plays an entire film festival of one director's work. The Rialto opened in 1939, and Harp has owned it since 1980.

Special discounts include \$1 off the normal admission price of \$3.50 for students showing their I.D.'s and a non-expiring book of ten tickets for \$20. A monthly schedule of movies is available at the theater, and The Spectator magazine regularly lists the Rialto's showings.

Harp said as many students drive to the theater from Chapel Hill and Durham as come from N.C. State. "I like to think of the Rialto as cinema education," Harp said. "We put things on that are considered to be cinema masterpieces and show them on the big screen in their original state as they were meant to be."



Tar Heel/Christopher Baroudi

The Varsity Theater on Franklin Street

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