

'Newton Boys' face off at the box office

Jon Johnson
Pendulum Reporter

Mix the brother camaraderie of "Tombstone" and the moral rationalization of bank robbing from "Bonnie and Clyde" and you have "The Newton Boys." Although it is based on a true story, Richard Linklater's latest film seems to come out as a mix of past westerns films.

The film starts with the humble beginnings of the Newton Boys as teenage farmers and horse tamers who live on their mother's farm. The characters' humble beginnings and good southern morals show the audience their devoted love to their mother.

The plot begins to thicken

when Matthew McConaughey, who plays one of the older Newton brothers, comes back from prison. McConaughey starts to rob banks and eventually persuades his brothers to join in on the heists. As the brothers become more and more involved in the world of bank robbing, it is harder for them to get out.

The actors' performances in this film can be summed up in one word: underachievement. With Vincent D'Onofrio, Ethan Hawke, Skeet Ulrich and Matthew McConaughey

one would think the film embodies some of the better acting in today's cinema, but not so. Of the four Newton Brothers, Skeet and Vincent give the best performances.

One of the reasons the acting may have seemed poor is due to a seemingly weak script and poor dialogue. An instance of the uninspired dialogue comes when one of the brothers is near death and another brother spouts out something like, "Oh no, please

don't die, not now, not you."

As far as directing the camera goes, Linklater excels again. The former director of "Dazed and Confused" and "Slacker" used character blocking and camera focusing beautifully to relay meanings of the plot. An example of the blocking is when McConaughey and Julianna Margulies are shown in profile together, alluding to the fact that they both are hiding something.

I had originally intended to review this film to sway people's opinion so that they would see it. Unfortunately, after seeing the film I was let down and can only say that it is an average movie.



Novelist speaks on writing issues

Erik Akelaitis
A&E Editor

Rikki Ducornet, novelist-in-residence at the University of Denver, will enlighten creative writers on April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Yeager Recital Hall.

Ducornet will speak about her writing experiences, the role women play in literature and will read passages from her new collection of writing titled "The Word 'Desire'"

Kyle Torke, English professor, hopes that Ducornet's talk will encourage students to take risks in their writing.

"The creative writing program at Elon is dedicated to bring outstanding writers to campus," Torke said.

"Hopefully she will empower Elon students to take risks with

their writing, their art and their lives that can result in a flowering of personality and talent."

Her talk will focus on her book as well as the ways in which women are portrayed in popular culture.

Ducornet will be staying at Elon until April 24. In addition to her talk and public reading on Tuesday, she will talk and present her work to several classes.

"Rikki is a generous, multi-talented artist: she writes novels, poetry, short fiction and essays," Torke said.

"She has bravely chosen to pursue an artistic life and she serves as an example to all of us in regards to how important our dreams are and how easily attainable they are."

Among her credentials, Ducornet is a recipient of the Charles Flint Kellogg Award. This annual award is given to a writer who has proven national and inter-

national reputation.

Ducornet's fiction reading is at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, in Yeager Recital Hall.

Her talk about women in literature and popular culture is Thursday, April 23, in the Room 221-B of the Moseley Center. Both events are free and open to the public.

CORRECTION!

In last week's article "The Pendulum's tribute to WSOE's Naked Grandpa, Mike Faas was misidentified as the "old news director." Faas was the former music director.

Blockbuster Video Releases

April 14

- Kiss the Girls*
- Rocketman*
- Moondance*
- The Ice Storm*
- The House of Yes*

Record Town CD Releases

April 14

- Mo Thugs*
- Dakota Moon*
- Tamia*

April 21

- Randy Travis*
- George Strait*
- Jimi Hendrix*

WSOE 89.3 Top Ten

1. Tuscadero- "Temper Temper"
2. Superdrag- "Hellbent"
3. Suicide Machines- "Black and White World"
4. SAMIAM- "Mr. Walker"
5. Propellerheads- "Velvet Pants"
6. Five Iron Frenzy- "Handbook for Sellout"
7. Yuma House- "Joke of a Party"
8. HUM- "Isle of Cheetah"
9. Promise Ring- "Why did we ever meet?"
10. Vitreous Humor- "Fashion Anyway"

Big Box of Stuff

On Tour

- ◆ April 27- Jars of Clay; The Ritz in Raleigh
- ◆ April 18- Rock the Earth Day 1998; Hardee's Walnut Creek

On Stage

- ◆ April 17-19 Department of Performing Arts presents Euripides' "The Bacchae," directed by Fred Rudbeck 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday 2 p.m. Sunday Tickets: \$5 or free with ID
- ◆ April 17- Northfest! Food, fun and music featuring the Beans and Aristocrats 2 p.m. Outside Moseley Center
- ◆ April 19 Opening of the Senior Art Exhibit 2 p.m. Isabella Cannon Room Tickets: free
- ◆ April 19 Elon College Gospel Choir 4 p.m. Whitley Auditorium Tickets: free
- ◆ April 20 Elon College Wind Ensemble Family Concert 8 p.m. McCrary Theatre Tickets: free
- ◆ April 24-25 The Department of Performing Arts presents "A Grand Night for Singing IV" 8 p.m. Yeager Recital Hall

On Screen

West End Cinema (538-9900)

- The Player's Club
- Titanic
- Species 2
- Primary Colors
- Mercury Rising
- Grease
- Lost in Space
- The Odd Couple II
- Barney's Great Adventure
- Wild Things
- U.S. Marshals
- The Wedding Singer
- The Newton Boys
- My Giant
- City of Angels

Coming this Friday

Major League: Back to the Minors