

River gushes with spectacular scenery

Lately there has been a rash of historic docudramas with great music, beautiful scenery, and a good story. *The Last of the Mohicans, 1492*, and *Dances with Wolves* are just a few, but director Robert Redford's new release *A River Runs Through It*, for me at least, blows the rest of them out of the water!

Set on the Blackfoot River in Montana, the story chronicles the life of the fly-fishing Maclean family, most prominently the two brothers Norman and Paul. Throughout the movie we watch Norman and Paul grow up and watch how their personalities affect their families as well as themselves.

Norman, played by Craig Sheffer, leaves home at age 18 to attend Dartmouth College while his brother Paul, played by the extremely handsome Brad Pitt, stays "to stay near the fish he had not yet caught." When Norman returns home after six years of college he has grown into a well-educated, strong-moraled man, and Paul has become a journalist who gambles and drinks too much. Paul's habit not only hurt him, but also hurt his father, a preacher, played by Tom



Traci Latta

Skerritt, and his mother played by Blythe Bethelson. The only way that the hurt gets smoothed over is by the men going fly-fishing.

The scenery is absolutely breathtaking. From the opening scene we are exposed to the vast expanse of mountains and the wide, clean streams in which the men religiously fish for the trout. It was hard for me to believe that there is still a place in America that looks like the Garden of Eden.

Not only was the scenery beautiful, but so was the story and the way that Redford narrates. The story was reminiscent of John Steinbeck's *East of Eden* in respect of the brothers competitive relationship, but when the men bonded,

it was as gentle as a love story, which makes for good tearjerker scenes.

The actors were also instrumental in carrying the heartfelt emotion of the movie. Brad Pitt was reminiscent of a young Redford in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. He portrayed the strongwilled Paul beautifully, and he has a wonderful career ahead of him. Emily Lloyd plays Norman's girlfriend, Jessie Burns, and delivers a performance as strong as the character she plays. Comic relief is provided by Jessie's family who is as dysfunctional as they come. Her mother, played by Edie McClurgh, is hysterical delivering such lines as, "He's [Norman] not used to all this excitement- he's Presbyterian."

All around, this movie was superb. Redford did a marvelous job casting and directing. This touching story is classic, and I am sure that 30 years from now this film will be

Culture Notes

- Meredith Performs *The Good Woman of Setzuan*, Saturday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m., Jones Auditorium
- Meredith Chorale Concert, Sunday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m., Jones Chapel
- Fletcher School of Performing Arts: Claude Frank, Piano, Monday, Nov. 16, 8 p.m., Jones Auditorium
- Meredith Opera Workshop Performance, Thursday, Nov. 19, 8 p.m., Carswell Concert Hall

considered a classic.

If you like tearjerkers, comedies, and dramas you will absolutely love *A River Runs Through It*. As Norman in the end says he is "haunted by waters", I am haunted by this movie.

Play project to be staged this weekend

Rehearsals begin Friday, with performance on Saturday

by Lori Watson

Meredith Performs, along with the Extra Theatre Company and Alpha Psi Omega, the honorary dramatic fraternity, will present *The Good Woman of Setzuan* on Nov. 14, 8 p.m. There will be only one performance.

The Good Woman of Setzuan is a twelve-hour play project that will be cast on Nov. 13 from community and student actors. Then on Nov. 14, starting in the early morning, there will be a concentrated production process of an all-day rehearsal. The performance will be that night at 8 p.m.

The Good Woman of Setzuan is about a young woman who sets up shop, and to her own detriment, is willing to help everyone who asks. Then in order to make her business prosper, the woman masquerades as her own fictional male cousin and refuses everyone's requests for help. Eventually, she is tried in court for kidnapping her cousin and the three gods, who have observed her throughout, calculate her dilemma. Kindness pleases the gods and only selfishness thrives.

This production will serve as a fund-raiser to help Alpha Psi Omega attend the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Arlington, Va. in March, 1993. To reserve your tickets, call the Meredith Performs Box Office at 829-2840, Monday-Friday from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Meredith students, faculty, and staff get in free with a Meredith ID. Other adult seats are \$6 and students and senior citizens are \$4.

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AUDITIONS & INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
Wainright Music Building, Rm. 106
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