

### Wyeth gift

The North Carolina Museum of Art formally accepted the painting "Sea Dog," by Andrew Wyeth, during ceremonies yesterday in Raleigh.

The Wyeth painting was a gift of the R.J. Reynolds foundation. Dated 1971, "Sea Dog" is the second painting by the noted American realist to join the museum's collection. The first, "Winter, 1946," was acquired in 1972.

"Sea Dog" is a portrait in egg tempera of Walter Anderson, frequent model for Andrew Wyeth.

## 'Frankenstein' funny, tight

by Peter Hardy  
DTH Critic

Although Mel Brooks' *Blazing Saddles* was often brilliantly funny, it was a jumbled and uneven film, frequently falling into stupidity and grossness. For that reason, it is both surprising and delightful to report that Brooks' new film *Young Frankenstein* is not only hilarious but meticulously detailed and crafted as well.

Brooks has gotten amazing mileage from the idea of a parody of the original 1930 *Frankenstein* and its 1935 sequel *The Bride*

of *Frankenstein*. Like the burning letters in *Blazing Saddles* even the credits of *Young Frankenstein* are funny. The titles are shown before a gloomy mountaintop castle lit by lightning flashes, with John Morris' effective 30s style music in the background.

Gerald Hirschfeld's black and white cinematography is so perfect that many scenes look exactly as if they were from a forty-year-old film (check the close-ups of Madeline Kahn at the railway station). Brooks uses the laboratory equipment from the 1930 film and it still sparks and whizzes

in the same impressively pointless way. The heart of the film is Brooks' maniacal humor. The "2,000 Year Old Man" established him as one of the funniest men alive and *Young Frankenstein* only bears that out. I don't think there is any single thing in the film as outrageously comic as the "Springtime For Hitler" sequence in *The Producers* or Cleavon Little singing "I Get No Kick From Champagne" in *Blazing Saddles* but there are more really funny gags in this film than in his previous efforts and fewer obviously bad ones.

Brooks received enormous help from Gene Wilder, who co-wrote the screenplay with him and plays the title role. Wilder can completely submerge himself into the most absurd characters, making them both realistic and funny. Perhaps no other actor could have made the sheep sequence in *Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex* both touching and tasteful. In this film he is not given as free a hand as he had in *The Producers* and *Start the Revolution Without Me* and so is not as wildly funny as he can be. But it may be his best and most complete performance yet, a characterization that goes to ridiculous extremes but is always consistent and believable.

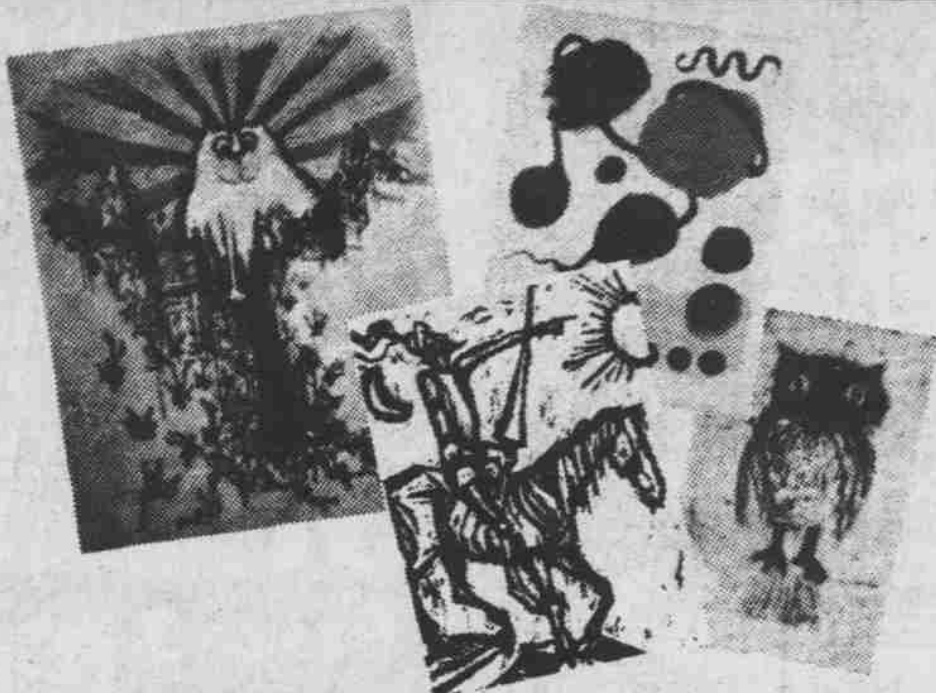
As the monster, Peter Boyle is burdened with heavy make-up and cannot speak for much of the film (though he and Gene Wilder do a terrific song and dance of

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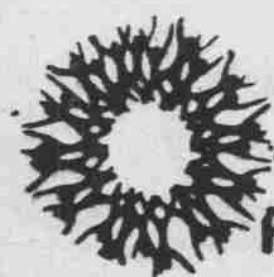
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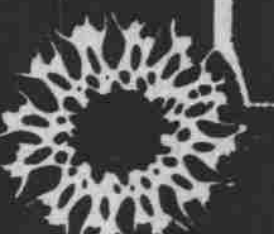


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