Missoula Filmmakers

Missoula experiences a cinematic renaissance

The shoot-em-up western hero may be part of a dead mythology, but that’s not stopping filmmaking in Montana from becoming valuable to the state as both an industry and an art form. Missoula-based producers have turned out quality feature films and in-depth documentaries, and there are a lot more projects in the works. Also, Westerns Unlimited is helping Hollywood producers with all the prop, scenery and livestock needed for any movie of the West.

Swan Wolfe of Bitterroot Films, has produced “Energy and Morality,” and is now working on “Idea and Identity,” which he called a “cultural anthropological film.” Wolfe was so busy this week on “Idea and Identity” that he did not have time to further explain the movie.

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Hames said that Westerns Unlimited is now developing a feature film called “The Real American Cowboy.” Hames wrote the script for the movie, which he said “will include documentary footage with a smidgen of fiction.”

Hames said that he has already filmed scenes for the movie at the Miles City bucking horse sale. “The Real American Cowboy” is a romantic story with an authentic look at the West. He explained that the plot concerns an eastern photographer who comes west to shoot pictures for a magazine story and ends up having her opinion of cowboys changed by the hard realities of Montana life.

“There are hard, dismal elements and economic reality,” Hames said. “But a noble romantic does come out of a real experience.”

Hames and his father, Lee, set up Westerns Unlimited to become a full production company with a Hollywood-style back lot. Their ranch south of Lolo is a museum of wagons, sleighs, saddles, chaps and branding irons. “We’re trying to make it more economical for producers to film here,” Hames said.

Producers like Hames believe that Missoula has a lot of conditions that make it ideal for filmmakers, and that the movie industry would be good for the area. He said that most of the money for filmmaking is in Los Angeles, but that the city is becoming such a violent and unpleasant place to work that the industry will soon be looking for other locations.

“And it doesn’t have to be just western movies,” he said. “Within 125 miles of Missoula, you have small-town settings, railroads, mountains, and Deer Lodge has the old prison. I think there are hard, dismal elements and economic reality,” Hames said. “But a noble romantic does come out of a real experience.”

“We’re not expecting huge box office sales,” she explained, “but we hope to make enough money to get out of debt.”

The film, which stars Rip Torn and Conchata Ferrill, was funded by a $50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the University of Montana.

Annick Smith of Wilderness Women Productions filmed “Heartland” in 1979, and it had its premiere that September at the New York Film Festival. “Heartland” has since won the Golden Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival and First Prize at the U.S. Film Festival last spring in Park City, Utah. It has been invited to film festivals in Denver, London, Toronto and Seattle.

Smith has also produced a series of documentary films for public television on Indian tribes of the Northwest called “The Real People,” and she did two films on Montana poet Richard Hugo. She is now working with writer Bill Kittredge on the scripts for a 6-part series on 19th century naturalist James A. Audubon. She said that she will submit treatments of the scripts to the British Broadcasting Corp. and hopes that the network will provide the funding. She is considering a documentary on grizzly bears, she said, and more films on wilderness women.

“‘Heartland’ was just the first film on women in the West,” she said.

Another Missoula filmmaker, Lex Hames, said that he has already filmed scenes for the movie at the Miles City bucking horse sale. “The Real American Cowboy” is a romantic story with an authentic look at the West. He explained that the plot concerns an eastern photographer who comes west to shoot pictures for a magazine story and ends up having her opinion of cowboys changed by the hard realities of Montana life.

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Wilderness Women Productions added another $100,000. The distribution was handled up to now by Heartland Distribution, an arm of Wilderness Women Productions and the film was shown in the four Rocky Mountain states of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah.

Smith said that Levitt-Pickman Film Corp. is arranging a theatrical opening for “Heartland” in New York this fall, and that the film will then go to big-city art theaters and university towns across the country. She said that Wilderness Women Productions will also be working with the distributor on promotion packages.

The grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, she said, allows the film to make $50,000 a year for five years. “After that,” she said, “we split every dollar 50-50 until the $600,000 is paid back. But this is all must—we don’t expect that to be a problem.”

—Tom Alton

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Opinions

The Southgate Mall is eating Missoula

Walk downtown and what do you see? If you cross the river, you will see the beginnings of a magnificent park; if you stroll from another direction, you will traverse shaded boulevards. Once there, by the bicycle racks and flower boxes, you will see people walking among stores and business that come in all sizes, shapes and prices.

The downtown is where a hash-slinging cafe operates within yards of the city government; where bars hug paperback book stores and natural corporate chain stores closed on to every shopping mall in the world.

The Missoula City Council has just thrown another scrap to the beast. Last week, the council in a 6 to 5 vote approved a two-store addition to the mall.

When the council approved this addition, it not only moved to increase pollution by encouraging driving but also helped throttle the downtown. And it helps create a Missoula that looks like a freeway interchange. Take away the mountains and you have Gary, Indiana. The council should stop approving such cancerous expansion on the outskirts of town. The city center, within walking distance for most, next to the river and thriving with variety and uniqueness, is the core of Missoula. It should be protected.

—Doug O’Harra

To Clancy Gordon, teacher and activist, we bid a sad adieu

Sometime this week, each of us should turn our eyes to the wilderness, and for just a moment, think of Clancy Gordon, the man who helped save so much of it.

Think on the man who came here more than 20 years ago to teach us the wonders of botany and the sciences of nature. But think also on the activist who spent so many of his years for the quality of earth, river and sky. Remember the man who was not afraid to take on the arrogant factory owners and polluting industrialists. Remember the man who championed the earth’s cause.

Remember him, and be sad for a moment. For Clancy will no longer

It’s time folks get off John McEnroe’s back. This time the media has gone too far: call it cruel, if you want. But surely call the recent coverage of John McEnroe a disgrace.

In a time when world tensions are high, the media has decided to teach McEnroe a lesson — on the front page.

Admittedly, McEnroe has an obnoxious mouth. But somebody has to challenge a system that hides behind a facade of tea, crumpets, strawberries and cream, and hypocritical prim and proper behavior.

But when McEnroe sees through the false front of Wimbledon and speaks up, despite playing the best tennis in the world, he is condemned. Some call him crazy. He becomes the Ugly American, and Superbrat. He doesn’t deserve such treatment.

McEnroe performed superbly at Wimbledon, taking the crown from five-time winner Bjorn Borg on the Fourth of July. McEnroe obviously knows the financial scam of Wimbledon, which prides itself on orderly conduct, long tradition and arrogant attitudes. But Wimbledon came out the loser this time; its image is tarnished, and British tennis is suffering.

Recent probes into the finances of the All England Club, which sponsors Wimbledon, and its parent, the British Lawn Tennis Association, reveal that the rich are getting richer at the expense of aspiring young tennis players.

For example, some of the $5 million in proceeds from the tournament are supposed to go for developing British tennis talent; in 1980, a mere $62,000 went for that purpose.

That’s just one show of Wimbledon hypocrisy. There’s also the shabby officiating done by amateurs — yes, amateurs — who ultimately decide winners by split-second decision making.

Yet when a player questions a call, the officials reply, “Go back and play.”

It is hard to take the pomposity of Wimbledon seriously when the shabby officiating done by amateurs — yes, amateurs — is not.

Bad times for the Superbrat

Jim Bruggers

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Think on the man who championed the earth’s cause. Remember him, and be sad for a moment. For Clancy will no longer

said, “I’m grunting pretty well this year . . . I can’t help it.”

Chris Evert-Lloyd, women’s winner, also got a chuckle out of Wimbledon’s attempts to stop grunting. “I’m solidly in favor of grunting,” she said. “I grunt because I feel better afterward.”

Fair Comment?

Sure, McEnroe’s a public figure who is independently wealthy at a young 22-years-old. Newspapers have the right to comment on his behavior. But consider these selected-biased examples from various papers:

• The Times, of London, carried three photos of McEnroe’s colorful gestures on its June 23 front page. The writer deplored McEnroe’s questioning of calls, and crude mouth. But a paragraph in the same story sums up just where Wimbledon official’s heads are at:

• The Associated Press, June 24, assumed the role of psychologist. It wrote: “His age and presumed maturity raise the worrisome long-term prospect that McEnroe may have a chronic psychological problem.”

• The Associated Press, June 26, analyzed tennis on the basis of McEnroe’s antics like this: “Tennis, once the sport of gentlemen, has become the brawling pit for rebellious ruffians, the culprits in the dramatic change of face. Big money, player arrogance and an absence of iron-fisted authority. “The game is moving close to anarchy.”

After all the playing was over, and McEnroe had proven himself a champion, one final brouhaha developed. McEnroe didn’t go to the formal Wimbledon dinner. Can anyone blame him? Surely he found better friends to celebrate with.

Montana Kaimin

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Nancy Rosen........................................photographer

Published every Friday of the University of Montana.
The School of Journalism uses the Kaimin for practice courses but

2—Montana Kaimin • Friday, July 17, 1981

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Bucklew to visit UM

Incoming University of Montana President Neil Bucklew will visit Missoula next week in an attempt to get oriented. Bucklew, who will arrive late July 22 and stay through July 26, will meet with acting President Donald Habbe, former President Richard Bowers, Commissioner of Higher Education John Richardson and others who will be on his staff this fall. Bucklew will also meet with ECOS (the executive committee of the Faculty Senate) on July 25.

"I'm not coming as president or to hold business meetings," Bucklew said. It is "a chance to get oriented." He added that his schedule will be "very loose.

Bucklew said that he and his family are still planning to move to Missoula by the end of August and are "looking forward" to it. "When you find your mind and heart are someplace," he said, "you want to get your body there."

—Doug O'Harra

Rec center closed until fall

Remember that spot on campus with the bowling alley? The pool tables? The pinball machines? You don't? No wonder. It's the University Center's Recreation Center. And it's not open this summer.

According to UC Director Ray Chapman, it isn't economically feasible to keep the rec center open for the few summer students who claim to use it.

Chapman said the rec center has been open in previous summers, but since bowling and billiards are indoor sports, it received little use.

"If just attracted neighborhood kids," he said.

And because opening the rec center during the summer would cause a financial drain, students attending school during other quarters would have to make up for the loss through ASUM subsidies.

Chapman said that no figures were immediately available on the day-to-day cost of running the rec center.

Groups, however, can get into the rec center, but Chapman said they have to pay a $70 rental fee for a two-hour minimum plus time charges for bowling and other activities.

He said in that way, the UC can guarantee a minimum number of people and can control the amount of time it has to be open.

—Tom Alton

Janis Ian plays UM Aug. 17

When singer-songwriter Janis Ian performs at the University of Montana Aug 17, Missoulians will get a chance to hear a performer one could call truly innovative, and often, truly bitter.

The concert, sponsored by ASUM Programming, will be at 8 p.m. in the University Theatre. Tickets will cost $6 for students, $8 for non-students.

Ian's career began during the mid-1960s, when her first hit, "Society's Child," climbed the charts. Hardly a light or humorous song, it decried the prejudice a rich girl and her poor lover face from the girl's parents. Ian hit the charts again a decade later, with another song about a bitter adolescence: "At 17."

The concert is the first major show scheduled this summer by ASUM Programming. According to manager-consultant Victor Gotesman, Programming will produce the show itself.

Gotesman said it cost Programming $5,000 to hire Ian for the single show.

But Ian, he said, may put on a little different performance here from what she has done in the past. Primarily an acoustic musician, Gotesman said Ian's show will include a back-up band relying more on electric instruments.

—Greg Gadberry

KEEPING UM GREEN, irrigation spigots spew water on to UM's mammary park. Each summer, millions of gallons of water are pumped on to UM lawns. It takes at least three days to cover the campus once. Photo by John Carson.

Campus Drive will be closed

Campus Drive, the street running along the base of Mt. Sentinel, will be closed between East Beckwith Avenue and Van Buren Street from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, July 24.

The University of Montana Physical Plant is going to paint and clean the street.

Dare imagination dwell the most Upon a woman won or a woman lost? 

William Butler Yeats

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ASUM PROGRAMMING
The Earth pays tribute to its own. And so it will be with one of the University of Montana’s most active botany professors and environmental advocates, Clancy C. Gordon, who died Sunday at the age of 53 after a two-year bout with cancer.

The UM Foundation is now soliciting tax-deductible donations to set up the Clancy Gordon Environmental Scholarship as a “living memorial” to the UM botanist-activist dead at 53. A multi-disciplinary committee of staff and faculty will choose the recipient, considering ecology, biology, physics and social sciences, as well as environmental studies, for the award.

A room memorial service for Gordon will be held July 17 in the Music Recital Hall.

Gordon, born in Seattle on July 26, 1939, received his first degree in botany from the University of Washington in Seattle in 1959. Four years later he earned his doctorate in plant pathology from Washington State University in Pullman.

Gordon joined UM’s botany department in 1969, shortly after receiving his Ph.D. Since then he has been actively involved in research in mycology, or fungus diseases, and forest pathology, and research on his native trees and plants put him on the doorstep of the budding environmental movement.

“Students were loyal to him and he was loyal to them,” he said.

Preece said Gordon’s work brought an awareness to the environment to citizens, especially Montanans. It also broke ground in modern techniques of pollution research and analysis, he said. Preece added that Gordon’s work also was important because his information was used in numerous court cases involving those influential companies such as Anaconda Co., Montana Power Co. and Dow Chemical Co. in their crusade for environmental quality.

Considered an expert on fluoride standards and the effects of air pollution on vegetation, Gordon served as an “expert witness” in numerous court cases involving those influential companies.

The creation of UM’s Environmental Studies Program in 1970 was largely due to Gordon, and he served as director from 1971-75. The program is geared to graduate students in the related scientific fields. Gordon also immersed himself in the first celebration of Earth Day in 1970 and subsequent years at UM. Gordon testified on the damage the pollutants were causing on the environment (that) and was not shaken by lawyers’ intensive questioning.

It (Gordon’s work) brought about some changes, Preece said.

The change most often cited involved the closure of a phosphate plant in Garrison after Gordon testified on the damage the pollutants were causing on crops and livestock in the area. Preece wrote a resolution for the Board of Regents honoring Gordon for “his tremendous capacity for work, his high ideals and dedication to principles of respect for the environment (that) earned him the gratitude of friends and professional associates throughout the nation.”

—Stephanie Hanson

UM botanist-activist dead at 53
Outings

Bicycling thrives in Missoula

Every summer at least 2,400 familiar and weary, touring bicyclists give the Garden City a "bicycling capital of the nation". Some ride across 4,200 miles of American roads. Most average a stay of two nights in Missoula. Then it's time to hit the trail again.

Enrie Franceschi, owner of the Birchwood Hostel, 609 S. Orange St., said one reason bicyclists peddle through Missoula is because it's part of the Trans-America Bicycle Trail, a well-known route that links the national parks from the United States and Canada.

Birchwood is a meeting place, a "rest and relaxation" mainstay for touring cyclists, in Franceschi's words. Franceschi said more than 4,000 cyclists and bikers stayed at Birchwood last year. scale independent travelers, others part of a group. Cyclists from all 50 states as well as more than 400 foreigners paid the $3.50 overnight fee at the hostel last summer.

Birchwood has one large bunkroom with a 23-person capacity plus a convenient kitchen, lounge, bike storage area, bathrooms and showers. According to Franceschi, hosts in Europe, and soon other countries adopted the idea of resting places for people "traveling by their own steam."

He said there are more than 400 hostels in more than 100 countries. America Bicycle Trail, a well-known trail, has just about eight bike shops and countless commuter, pedal-for-pleasure weekend cyclists also inhabit the city.

However, the commuters, peddlers and weekenders need laws to live and wheel by. A new licensing system for bicycles used within the city limits, touring cyclists not included, has recently been implemented by the Missoula City Council's ad hoc committee and a citizen's bike advisory committee.

So if you're a restaurant owner or bike dealer, give thanks to the Big Wheel in the sky for that touring cyclist just passing through who craves a nice, hot meal or that weekend pedaler who needs his brakes adjusted.

Remember, this summer, you are living in the "official bicycling capital of the nation."

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Poets, artists come to UM July 20

Starting July 20, the University of Montana will host "A Conference on the Creative Person" — an 11-day series of presentations and discussions on creativity, art, and artists.

The conference will feature presentations by Maxine Kumin, the winner of the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for poetry; James Welch, Montana poet and author; Karen Cheney Shores, director of UM's Continuing Education and Summer Sessions; and Patricia Forberg, Dana Bosserd and Arthur Amiotte, who will be featured speakers at the University.

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Filmmakers...

Cont. from p. 1.

you could make a great horror movie at the Dillon campus.

The biggest problem, facing Missoula filmmakers is the lack of local funding. Annick Smith called Missoula "a wonderful place to shoot films and do creative work, but a terrible place to raise money."

Smith said that she had attended the recent Sundance Institute convention for independent filmmakers, and that actor-producer Robert Redford was there and expressed interest in independently produced western movies. She said that fund raising requires a lot of traveling and letter writing, and that "it's very hard to complete."

Hames said that since the disaster of "Heaven's Gate," a multi-million dollar failure filmed partly in Montana, the cause of the western film has suffered in Hollywood. A production company like Western Unlimited, he said, could have provided "Heaven's Gate" producers with the support and expertise that would have made the movie better and less expensive to film. Bill Kittredge, a professor of English at the University of Montana, helped on the screenplay of "Heartland" and is now interested in doing the scriptwriting of "Heartland" and "The Way West." He said that films are a powerful medium and are more frustrating than the writer did. "You just have to hope," he said, "that the changes are good."

Kittredge said that he is interested in writing scripts that deal with community and political conflicts. "It doesn't necessarily provide answers," he said, "except that we had better be doing something about these problems."

...and cinematographers.

the writer did. "You just have to hope," he said, "that the changes are good."

The logical step for the script writer, according to Kittredge, is to become a producer so he can have more control over directors

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• Fresh Banana Pancakes
• Fresh Ground Columbian Coffee
• Fresh Fruit and Yogurt

WEEKEND BREAKFAST
Spinach and Cream Cheese Omelette with a Glass of Champagne, or
Orange Juice — $3.75

223 W. Front 349-9903

TODAY ONLY—FRI. 17th
ONLY BUYING BOOKS
USED SECOND
SUMMER SESSION OR FALL QUARTER
Another Buy Scheduled August 14th

University Center

Real Estate Pre Licenture Course
Human Relations II
Deer Lodge Research Luncheon
WRC Movie
Human Resources II
Wolf Recovery Committee
Shakespeare in the Park
Coffeehouse: Hurricane Ridgerunners & Fiddlin' Arnie Barnett
Art Fair
Continental Singers
Coffeehouse: Shannon Leigh Wyatt
Eldridge Cleaver (former Black Panther leader) on "Citizenship and Patriotism"
Gallery Show: John R. Krippel
Copy Center
Copper Commons
Gold Oak & Gold Oak Sandwich Shop
Bookstore
Recreation Center
Recreation Annex
Men's Gym
Grizzly Pool
Fitness Swim
UC Gallery

Taste of Montana Summer Lunch

Thurs. at 11:30

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