

Aggie Cinema brings foreign series

By Stephen Bonin

To herald the birth of its first official International and Classic Film Series, MSC Aggie Cinema recently brought back "La Cage Aux Folles," the French farce that made the series possible.

The fact that over 750 Aggies packed Rudder Theater last semester, most drawn by the film's comic treatment of homosexuality, signaled to the MSC film committee a good time to take a chance.

And that it did.

Under the direction of Mike Coleman, vice chairman in charge of the series, Aggie Cinema has lined up eight foreign films and eight classic films. Foreign films will be shown Wednesday nights before spring break, with the classic films filling the slot after the break.

"The audience for foreign films is growing very rapidly here," Coleman said. "More students are becoming interested in cinema as an art form, not just as a form of entertainment."

Previously, neither Aggie Cinema nor the defunct MSC Arts Committee made money from foreign films. So the scheduling of "La Cage Aux Folles" as an experiment proved something to both the committee and the students who saw it.

And though the evidence was somewhat loaded, Aggie Cinema believed the success of "La Cage ..." might mold fascination and enjoyment into interest and a desire for more.

Besides the encore showings of "La Cage ...", two German allegories set in the post-war era have already been screened with good



response: "The Tin Drum" and "The Marriage Of Maria Braun." In the coming weeks Aggies can see:

"Nosferatu" (Germany): Germany takes on the classic Count Dracula story.

"My Brilliant Career" (Australia): Winner of seven Australian Academy Awards, an egotistical girl struggles with the rigid confines of life.

"Cousin, Cousine" (France): Cousins by marriage fall in love.

"The Man Who Loved Women" (France): What would a foreign film festival be without a Francis Truffaut film? A story of the many faces of love.

"The Tall Blond Man With One Black Shoe" (France): Watergate-style shenanigans are the object of satire in this farce.

Aggie Cinema hopes this cream-of-the-crop lineup of movies will secure a permanent spot for the foreign films and perhaps expand them to a full semester. But for now, an equally good sample of American films will round out the Wednesday night schedule. These include the musicals "South Pacific" and "An American In Paris," the Alfred Hitchcock thriller "North By Northwest," the Academy Award winning "Midnight Cowboy," "The Grapes Of Wrath," "The African Queen," and "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Incidentally, "La Cage Aux Folles" recently became the highest grossing foreign film in the United States and a sequel will soon be released.

"And you can bet as soon as we can get it, we will," Coleman said.

Three groups plan theater auditions, performances

By Kathleen McElroy

Battalion Staff

There's no set style in the various plays presented by Texas A&M University theater organizations this semester.

The Aggie Players, the Theater Arts section of the English department, and a directing class will all have performances this semester.

The Theater Arts section of the English department is producing two extremely different plays. The first show is "The Children's Hour" by American playwright Lillian Hellman. The play has a controversial, emotional pretense: an excitable, uncontrollable child accuses her teachers of a homosexual relationship. Hellman has said, "This is really not a play about lesbianism, but about a lie. The bigger the lie the better, as always."

Roy O'Valle is directing "The Children's Hour" and the show is in Rudder Forum Thursday through Saturday nights, Feb. 26-28 March 5-7.

After that production work will start on Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." This very British comedy is about society and its rules and standards — two gentlemen, both pretending to be what they're not, fall in love with two ladies who love only men named Ernest. The director is Richard Soddors, and this production is in Rudder Theatre. Show dates are Wednesday through Saturday, April 22-25, with two shows on Saturday. Auditions and crew assignments are open to all Texas A&M students.

The Aggie Players, the University student organization, is presenting a contemporary play, "Lovers and Other Strangers" by Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna. President Mary-Alice Hellman said the organization had special reasons for selecting the play which is actually five comedies with a general theme — love.

"Lovers and Other Strangers" was picked by the Aggie Players because it is a mixture of light-hearted comedy with moments of realism. It's a very touching play about relationships," she said. She also pointed out why student productions are special.

"The major difference between

departmental and club plays," she said, "is that students design and direct the plays. This is an excellent opportunity for theater students to learn their trade."

Crew assignments are available for this production which will be performed at Bryan's StageCenter Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4.

The four directors for "Lovers and Other Strangers" are students from the theater arts directing class. Each student is responsible for a particular piece which he casts, stages and directs.

Another student from the class, Pat Martine, is presenting "Cave

Cat," a play which mixes singing, acting and modern dance staged on a prehistoric set in Rudder Forum. His production is sponsored by the Aggie Players and Alphi Psi Omega, the national honor theater society.

Other students will present their special productions in Rudder Forum Wednesday through Saturday, May 5-8. The student productions are free. For more information on tickets, auditions and background, call the theater arts section at 845-2621, or read the theater arts bulletin board on the third floor of Bizzell Hall East.

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