

# Two Thumbs Up

Network Events Theater brings movie previews to Rudder

BY JENNIFER SPURLOCK  
The Battalion

Texas Aggies will make their way to local theaters this semester in the tradition of courtship and entertainment. Little do they know that in just a few weeks they will be able to view movies in the comfort of Rudder Theater without the usual sticky floors, high priced tickets, obnoxious teen boppers or middle-aged sticklers determined to keep the average Joe from uttering anything from the faintest whisper to a deep breath.

Soon the MSC Film Society, in cooperation with a corporation, Network Events Theater (NET), will be bringing sneak previews to Texas A&M's very own Rudder Theater.

Ryan Whitworth, the vice chairman of the MSC Film Society, said he is excited about the NET program that will debut in Rudder Theater Sept. 22.

"The NET will be providing all digital theater equipment giving students the opportunity to view blockbuster movies just two days a week for a period of two to five times a month," Whitworth said.

The price of previewing is not as high as one might think.

"In return for the equipment, a minimum of 10 students will be randomly pulled out of the crowd by MSC members to fill out a marketing survey for the NET corporation but admission to the movie will be free," Whitworth said.

"The MSC Film Society will only be repaying the rental fee for Rudder Theater," Trish Allamon, a senior biology major, said although it will be a challenging task for the MSC Film Society, she hopes that it will allow membership to grow.

"When we went to the NET meeting to review guidelines, I noticed that no other school had an actual film society at the presentation," Allamon said.

"Our film society was among many student government organizations interested in the program."

Even though this sounds like a great idea to eager film society members, the program had a hard time finding its way into the hearts of campus officials.

Penny Ditton, a sponsor of the MSC Film Society, was one of the first to witness the NET's policies for business when she attended a 1994 presentation in New York. Penny said that with its previous regulations the NET, required campuses to provide a room for an entire year of viewing on an everyday basis. A&M is such a large school, it would be out of the question to reserve a room every day.

"At the time, it was impossible to acquire a room guaranteed for that long on the campus," Ditton said.

Another negative aspect of the program offered in 1994 would be that NET's entertainment viewing would include more than just the planned films.

"It would include such televised events like a boxing match with Mike Tyson," Ditton said.

In response to all the negative guidelines the company offered, the Film Society sponsors decided to drop the idea in 1994. Five years later in May of 1999, the NET would present them with a more acceptable set of guidelines.

Casey Starr, a senior engineering major, said he joined the MSC Film society because of the campus's film festival.

Now, as the director of this year's film festival, he said he believes the program will not only excite A&M students, but it will be a great opportunity for A&M to be a part of a nationwide event.

"Texas A&M, as one of 40 schools in the country participating in the program, is honored by the addition to our film society," Starr said. "It is also a privilege to be among a national community that will be able to preview top-rated movies before their actual release to the public."

Another significant event from the NET will be the prospect for A&M students to be able to interview movie stars via satellite.

"Certain stars like Robert Deniro and Neve Campbell have participated in the past," Ditton said.

"The students across the nation could watch via satellite as Texas A&M students take turns interviewing the actors."

"The system might possibly be expanded into actual speaker programs for students by such well-known figures as Hillary Clinton and Mikhail Gorbachev."

The MSC Film Society will be hosting a booth this Sunday, Sept. 5, at the MSC's Open House.

Students can also get an application for membership on the internet or at their office on the second-floor of the MSC but need not be members of the MSC Film Society to take advantage of NET.

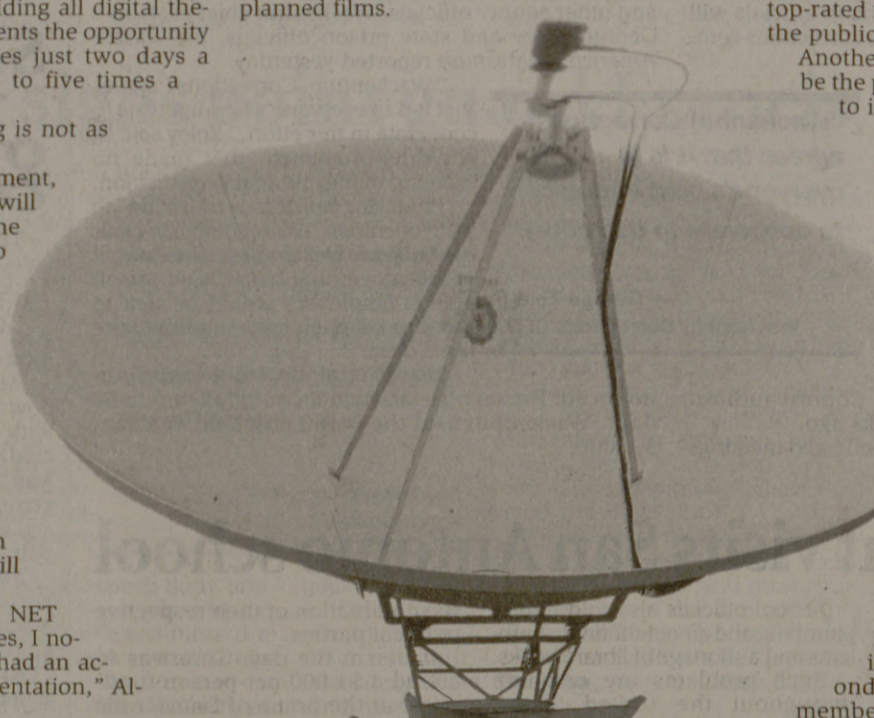


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## DISABLED

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"I have to meet with the professor after class to let them know my situation so that I can get engaged notes," he said. "Otherwise, I can't read them."

Whitlock also gets special assistance from her professors, some of whom have never worked with a disabled person before.

"I have had a good experience with my professors," Whitlock said. "They have always been understanding and willing to help in my way."

Richardson doesn't think of himself as different from anyone else. After classes, he has a regular day. He goes to work out and he hangs out with his friends. He said he knows A&M is a conservative place, and he does get funny looks from people sometimes.

"Since I have the prosthesis in my right eye, people stare," Richardson said. "It does make me feel abnormal sometimes because people don't know the scenario."

"They don't know me, and they don't know why I am they way I am, but they also don't know any better. You can't fault someone for not having all the information, and I try to give people the benefit of the doubt."

Whitlock agrees with Richardson's thoughts. She said she has never had a negative experience with people treating her badly because of her disability.

She said she believes most people are just scared because they may not have seen someone or talked to someone moving about in a wheelchair.

"I know people will look and stare, it's normal," she said. "But the worst thing is when people see me and then they look away or pretend not to look at all."

"I am a person just like everyone else. I have the same feelings and emotions as those people who walk to and from class, maybe even stronger simply because people expect us not to have those emotions."

"I think too often people who are handicapped are shown as being really happy or really sad; there's never any room left to just be human."

## CENTRO-MATIC

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Kid Fantastic will again be opening up for Centro-matic this Saturday night, along with Captain Audio.

The August 1999 issue of the Dallas Observer wrote that Johnson's songwriting talents are genuinely moving.

"He [Johnson] doesn't just write a lot of songs, he writes a lot of great ones, songs that take maddeningly simple melodies and make them sound so beautifully complex."

The Fort Worth Weekly described Centro-matic as "the most prolific band in the area," as well as awarding them with the title, "The Hardest Working Band in Local Music."

But the Centro-matic hype only begins in the newspapers. Local fans get ready for the upcoming show with enthusiasm.

Tim Graves, a senior chemical engineering major, said he became a fan after he saw the band play at the Crooked Path last semester.

"The first time I saw them play, I was totally hooked," Graves said. "I had heard that Will and Steve played a live show out at Marooned once, and everyone couldn't stop talking about how awesome it was. I had to go see for myself."

Despite their creative flavor, Centro-matic has been influenced by a variety of bands, including Guided By Voices, The Replacements and Big Star. Hedman said they listen to a strange array of music as they ride to shows in their van.

"We all have pretty eclectic taste," Hedman said. "We listen to anything from really cheesy stuff like Big Squire to the latest indie album."

Centro-matic can be seen this Saturday, along with Captain Audio and Kid Fantastic, at 9 p.m. at Baghis.

**"The first time I saw them play, I was totally hooked."**

— Tim Graves  
Centro-matic fan

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The MSC Film Society will be hosting a booth this Sunday, Sept. 5, at the MSC's Open House. Students can also get an application for membership on the internet or at their office on the second-floor of the MSC but need not be members of the MSC Film Society to take advantage of NET.

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<b>Thursday, Sept. 9</b> Professional Rush 8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Ramada Inn Professional Attire	<b>Friday, Sept. 10</b> Social Rush Time & Place TBA *by invitation only

Questions? Please call our Rush Directors,  
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