

t h u r s d a y

Foot-Notes

10 S. Gilbert St., 7-10 p.m.

This band from Decorah will play for a public Scandinavian-American old-time dance.

s a t u r d a y

Tastes Like Burning

Sal's Music Emporium, 624 S. Dubuque St., 6 p.m.

A CD release party for a band with a really funny name.

h o u r s

f r i d a y

PATV 10-year Anniversary

Public Access TV, 623 S. Dubuque St., noon-6 p.m.

Celebrate with the coolest kids around, get refreshments, then stick around for open channel, from 5-6 p.m., to tell everyone how much fun PATV is.

s u n d a y

Music Benefit

The Green Room, 509 S. Gilbert St., 9 p.m.

A benefit show for the Women's Resource and Action Center, featuring Amy Carder, Dave Olson and Auto Crash.

WEEKEND IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT ... SPRING FORWARD!

Thursday, March 30, 2000

www.dailyiowan.com

The silence of the unspeakable

■ A new documentary explores Mauricio Lasansky's "The Nazi Drawings."

By Tyler Steward

The Daily Iowan

When Lane Wyrick's new documentary, *The Nazi Drawings*, had its private premiere at the Levitt Center in October 1999, he was unprepared for the audience's reaction. But when the credits rolled, the effect was stunning.

"There was complete silence," Wyrick said. "I walked over to the VCR to turn it off, and it was like walking through very sick air." A few members of the audience were crying, he recalled.

Given the topic of the documentary, the audience's reaction was not entirely unexpected. The film concerns a series of 33 drawings — collectively titled "The Nazi Drawings" — created by artist Mauricio Lasansky in the 1960s. Lasansky drew the series after viewing *Night and Fog*, a documentary showing the victims and aftermath of the Nazi atrocities.

"It got under his skin so much that he just had to spit out this poison that was in him," Wyrick said.

Wyrick's documentary is scheduled to receive five Iowa Motion Picture Awards, including one in the category of docu-

mentary, in a ceremony to be held in Des Moines Saturday. It is scheduled for a public premiere in the Levitt Center on April 9 at 1 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Wyrick, who received a B.A. in film and broadcasting from the UI in 1990, was commissioned to do the documentary by the UI Foundation in 1997. He recalled feeling "uneasy" when he first saw the drawings, some of which are on display at the UI Museum of Art.

"Some of the images you can't look directly at," he said. "It makes you feel very uncomfortable."

But as he was creating the documentary, Wyrick also carried a sense of the drawings as important historical documents. To provide historical context for the drawings, he conducted several interviews with Lasansky, who is a professor emeritus at the UI, Richard Levitt, whose foundation purchased the drawings in 1969, and poet and historian Edwin Honig. Honig wrote the text for the original "Nazi Drawings" catalogue, featured at the 1967 premiere of the drawings at the



Wyrick, filmmaker

See WYRICK, Page 4C

FILM

The Nazi Drawings

What:

Public premiere

When:

April 9 at 1 p.m.

Where:

Levitt Center

Admission:

Free

'Into the depths of man's indignity'

WYRICK

Continued from Page 1C

Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

To complete the documentary, Wyrick called upon UI theater professor Eric Forsythe to provide voice-

over narration, and David Gompper, acting director of the Center for New Music, to provide a film score. Both are also scheduled to receive Iowa Motion Picture Awards at the upcoming ceremony.

Though the documentary is primarily about the drawings, Wyrick says, he hopes it offers insight into

the mind of their creator, as well as the larger significance of the drawings.

"Mauricio's 'Nazi Drawings' apply to more than just the Holocaust," he said. "They reach into the depths of man's indignity to his fellow man."

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