Theater and film: two distinct worlds

A few weeks ago, The Rider News ran a column by one of its own editors, Vincent Civitillo (Feb. 11). In the column, Civitillo expressed his concerns about what is considered high culture and what is not. He defended movies, claiming that they are just as respectable as plays. Even though some may disagree with what he had to say, I felt he was right and that more needed to be said. I admit that there are a lot more stupid movies than good ones (as a true movie fan that doesn't stop me from watching them), but a handful of Paulie Shore 'flicks' bloated with bathroom humor and brainless jokes shouldn't ruin or even affect the credibility of the entire art form. So what is it that is so devastatingly offensive about movies that makes them second-best to theater?

Whether I'm taking on the role of reader or writer, I am foremost interested in a well-told story, no matter how it is told. When taking this into consideration, the line between theater and film is very much blurred to me. I ignore the aesthetic differences of the two arts and am more interested in determining which would be more appropriate and effective in telling the story. But there are still the two are completely different artistic outputs with different talents. In the case of theater and films, the two have different concentrations, but can be made up for with the intimacy that is attainable in film. There are many pros and cons for both arts when compared to each other, but they should only be compared to each other for the sake of taste and not artistic value.

I think it is a lost cause to try comparing the artistic value of plays to movies, just as attempts to compare Michelangelo's three-dimensional statue “David” to his two-dimensional painting of the Sistine Chapel. While one is an actual physical structure with depth and crevasses that, with the assistance of physics and light, create shading, the other is nothing more than an imitation of three-dimensional figures. A painting can only fake depth and shading with the application of different densities of color. Still, both were intricately created with such detail that makes them both masterpieces in entirely different categories.

To me, it's simple. Sculptors and painters, although sometimes the same person as in Michelangelo's case, are different types of artists with different talents. In the case of theater and films, they should only be compared as brilliant in their own rights.

There are many differences between plays and movies, such as theater's energy of a live performance that cannot be simulated in a movie, but can be made up for with the intimacy that is attainable in film. There are many pros and cons for both arts when compared to each other, but they should only be compared to each other for the sake of taste and not artistic value. I think it is a lost cause to try comparing the artistic value of plays to movies, just as attempting to compare Shakespeare's tragic characters with those of Marlon Brando's in On the Waterfront.

To this day, women are still unjustly "com- pensated" for equal occupations in America, receiving 73 cents to each dollar earned by their male coworkers. In 1965 the Civil Rights Act passed. In 1972 the Supreme Court extended the right to birth control to single people. In 1978 the Pregnancy Discrimination Act began to protect the jobs of pregnant women by making it illegal to commit violence against reproductive health clinics such as Planned Parenthood. In addition, his wife has become one of the most powerful political women in history.

To this day, women are still unjustly "compensated" for equal occupations in America, receiving 73 cents to each dollar earned by their male coworkers. In 1965 the Civil Rights Act passed. In 1972 the Supreme Court extended the right to birth control to single people. In 1978 the Pregnancy Discrimination Act began to protect the jobs of pregnant women by making it illegal to commit violence against reproductive health clinics such as Planned Parenthood. In addition, his wife has become one of the most powerful political women in history.

"To this day, women are still unjustly "compensated" for equal occupations in America, receiving 73 cents to each dollar earned by their male coworkers. In 1965 the Civil Rights Act passed. In 1972 the Supreme Court extended the right to birth control to single people. In 1978 the Pregnancy Discrimination Act began to protect the jobs of pregnant women by making it illegal to commit violence against reproductive health clinics such as Planned Parenthood. In addition, his wife has become one of the most powerful political women in history.