# **Vermillion Theaters 'The Martian'**



#### **REVIEW BY ZACH WETZEL**

The poster for The Martian says "Bring Him Home", and I can't help but think of Les Miserables. No singing in this movie, but there is some disco music (more on that later). Matt Damon leads an A-List cast featuring Jeff Daniels and Chiwetel Ejiofor. The girlfriend from season 1 of American Horror Story is here, along with Kristen Wiig, the Winter Soldier, and the funny sidekick from Ant-Man. It's an eclectic mix of actors but they all do a great job. The Martian is like a lighter version of the Alfonso Cuaron film Gravity. Critics are comparing The Martian to Cast Away, but in space. I think that is a fair comparison. No this is not a true story. Apparently some seem to think so. Sorry, we haven't made it to Mars yet. Anyway, Matt Damon plays Mark, a crew member who gets stranded on Mars after a crazy storm forces the rest of the crew to depart. Mark decides to stick it to the man and fight for his survival. Although this is not a true story, you can certainly tell yourself: "I may be having a bad day, but hey-at least I'm not stuck on Mars." Mark uses humor and sarcasm to deal with his difficult situation, a tactic that I appreciate. I really liked Mark's character. You could really get behind this guy because he acted like a real person and said what someone would actually say if they were in his shoes. The movie does a good job of taking you along for the ride so you can be a fly on the

wall and experience through Mark's eyes just what it's like to camp out on Mars for a couple years. The POV shots really put the viewer in the middle of the action. The Martian isn't really an action movie, although there is some action at the beginning and end. Rather, it is both a dramedy and a character study. I liked how Mark was able to actually communicate with the people back on earth, something that Tom Hanks was unable to do in Cast Away. Martian also has a happier ending and some hilarious moments as well. Mark was very upset at one point because the only music left behind on Mars was disco. There is also a clever Iron Man reference in this film which scored some major points in my book. Beautiful music, real human emotion, and gorgeous views of the Red Planet's landscape add up to one great film. The Martian, at the end of the day, is funnier than Gravity and more fun than Cast Away. That said, Gravity is an amazing film, and so is Cast Away. They're just different films from this one. Go see the Martian, and carve out some time afterward to think about what you iust watched. This is an intelligent and scientifically grounded movie (sort of) that makes you feel smart. Don't wait for Redbox. The Martian was meant to be viewed on a giant screen

### **USD History Professor Presents Annual Harrington Lecture On Greece**

VERMILLION, S.D. -University of South Dakota history professor Clayton Lehmann will present "Imagining Greece" at the 63rd Annual Harrington Lecture at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, in Old Main's Farber Hall. Lehmann, Ph.D., will address how people perceive Greece, from the poet Homer in ancient history to the media coverage of recent elections. His talk will also

Greeks think about themselves. Since joining USD in 1988, Lehmann has taught classes in Greek and Roman history, Western civilization,

compare outsiders' perspec-

tives of Greece with how

archaeology, epigraphy, lan-guage and literature. A South Dakota native, Lehmann earned his bachelor's degree from Augustana College, his master's degree from the University of Maryland and a doctorate in ancient history from the University of Chicago. While working on his dissertation, he traveled to Greece and developed a life-long love of the country. Lehmann regularly returns to Greece to travel and study, three times as the Gertrude Smith Professor at the American School of Classical Studies to direct an intensive summer study tour of Greece for advanced students and teachers of the classics. He

also runs a study-abroad program that takes students from USD and other institutions to Greece, where the group travels to historic and cultural locations on a sailing yacht. Since this program's inception 2005, 115 students have traveled and studied in various parts of the country with Lehmann and his fellow faculty members. Much of Lehmann's research focuses on Greek history with his most recent work concerning the Greek historian Thucydides.

Named in 1966 in honor of Elbert Harrington, professor of speech and dean of USD's College of Arts & Sciences (1945-1970), the

lecture is an annual event featuring a distinguished professor with long-standing service to the College of Arts & Sciences. Each year a faculty committee from the department recommends to the dean the name of a faculty member to deliver the Harrington Lecture. The faculty member must be a teacher and scholar, and the lecture must be non-technical, blending insight into liberal education with the faculty member's work as a scholar. A reception will be held immediately following the lecture.

# **Concerns Over School Lunch Rules Continue To Grow, Says Noem**

*New GAO report shows* participation in National School Lunch Program declines by 1.4 million

in last four school years WASHINGTON, D.C. - Representative Kristi Noem today expressed continued concern after the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released an updated study showing National School Lunch Program participation declined by 1.4 million children – or 4.5 percent – between the 2010-11 school year and the 2013-14 school year. The non-partisan agency also reported that "new federal nutrition requirements contributed to the decrease.'

"My husband and I work hard to make sure healthy food goes on our kids' plates at home, but we understand that if it doesn't taste good, our kids aren't going to eat it. I think that's something most parents have experienced," said Noem. "This report once again shows that if families can afford it, more and more are sending their kids to school with a sack lunch, but if finances are tight, kids are forced to stay in the program. I remain very concerned that the new regulations scheduled to take effect in the coming

years will only make this phenomena worse.

The new GAO report, which was an update to a study requested by Noem and Education and Workforce Committee Chairman John Kline, shows a continued decline in school meal program participation since the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act took effect in 2010. Prior to the 2010-11 school year, participation in the program had been increasing steadily for many years. Click here to view a copy of the full report.

Noem has been vocal about her opposition to the new regulations. While she agrees we must do all we can to make sure kids are healthy, Noem opposes the one-size-fits-all solution that can leave kids feeling hungry and impose increased costs on local school districts.

In March 2015, Noem introduced the Reducing Federal Mandates on School Lunch Act, which would:

•Allow schools to maintain the previous whole grain requirements. Without this change, 100 percent of the grains that schools are required to serve students would be whole-grain rich, pushing items like tortillas and

pasta largely off the menu. Noem's bill would restore the requirement back to 50 percent, meaning at least half of the grains served would be required to be whole-grain rich.

•Maintain Target 1 sodium requirements. Absent a change, schools would have a difficult time serving healthy foods that include milk, cheese, meat and other foods with naturally occurring sodium.

•Give administrators flexibility on some of the rules that have increased costs for school districts, including the school breakfast program, a la carte options, and school lunch price increases.

•Make the USDA's easing of the meat and grain requirements permanent through law, rather than regulations. This would give certainty to schools that they'll be allowed more flexibility in serving meats and grains while still staying within calorie maximums.

Noem introduced similar legislation in the 113th Congress as well. The bill has been endorsed by the National School Board Association and the School Superintendents Association.

## The 2015 Annual South Dakota Council Of **Teachers Of English Conference Was Held**

Teachers were able

The 2015 annual South Dakota Council "Story as the Landscape

from area middle schools, high schools, and postsecondary institutions took part in the conference. including Carla McMurry-Kozak from Vermillion High School, who was elected Vice-President of SDCTE for



Also honored at this year's banquet was the



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