

Vaughan's latest makes for a good album

By Mark Davis

Stevie Ray Vaughan's newest album, *Couldn't Stand The Weather*, on Epic, has the makings of an old friend and a good album. It has the requirements that make it *prima facie* for R and B fans but

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still remains commercial enough to be attractive to the general public. And Vaughan's expertise on the guitar, along with his back-ups which include Jimmie Vaughan (Stevie's brother) and Fran Christina of The Fabulous Thunderbirds, make this album a technical success which is of utmost importance considering its lack of original material.

Although remaking a song is an inherent problem to R and B, Vaughan makes some very good choices in those songs. The album leads with a remake of the

instrumental "Skuttle Buttin'" and then Vaughan shows what he can do on his own with "Couldn't Stand The Weather." This song holds its own with the classics on the album, period. Then "Things That I Used To Do," another Vaughan original, gives more testimony to Vaughan's own talent.

"Voodoo Chile," which Vaughan resurrects from Hendrix's list of classics, is, if nothing else, a reiteration of the talent that lead Vaughan to be Springstein's E Street Band lead guitarist and also gave him a guest appearance on David Bowies "Lets Dance" album.

Side two begins with the last of the Vaughan originals, "Cold Shot," the larger commercial hit on the album.

Next comes three grandfathers of R and B in a row, starting with "Tin Pan Alley," originally done by Jimmie Reed, "Honey Bee," and "Stang's Swang."

On the whole, the album seems somewhat out of order with "Voodoo Chile." At the most "Voodoo..." is a somewhat bluesy rock sound, but not quite like anything on the album. This drags from the mood just a little too much for comfort.



Courtesy Epic Records

University Theatre plans 8 productions

Challenging and exciting, yet classic, the 1984-85 University Theatre Lincoln's eighth production season includes:

- "Betrayal" by Harold Pinter
 - "The Hostage" by Brenda Behan
 - "The Fox" by Allan Miller
 - "Amadeus" by Peter Shaffer
 - "The Rules of the Game" by Luigi Pirandello
 - "Grease" Book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey
 - "The Dining Room" by A.R. Gruney, Jr.
 - "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare
- Brilliant British playwright Harold Pinter provides a fascinating study of love, marriage and adultery in a plot presented with unique theatricality, to be staged in Studio Theatre beginning October 3.
- "The Hostage," opens October 25 in Howell Theatre, is a bawdy salute to the Irish spirit, with music, dance, politics and romance.
- "The Fox" is adapted from D.H. Lawrence's novella. It opens November 8 at Studio Theatre.
- "Amadeus," a haunting tale of one man's obsession with another's talent, opens at Howell December 6.

Comedy and tragedy mingle in "The Rules of the Game," opening February 14 in the Studio.

"Grease" opens an extended 15 performance run at Howell Theatre on March 7.

"The Dining Room" is a bouyant funny, tongue-in-cheek love song to that vanishing breed known as WASPs. It opens in Studio Theatre April 4.

"Macbeth" ends it all in Howell Theatre, beginning April 25.

Season and individual tickets for the 84-85 season are on sale from August 27 at the theatre box office in the Temple Building, 12th and R streets.

'Wives' tops all Hollywood books; Collins authors scathing account

By Scott Harrah

The No. 1 best-seller on national paperback fiction lists is "Hollywood Wives" by Jackie Collins, Joan Collins' younger sister. This controversial novel is one of the most talked-about in years and has

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prompted numerous talk-show interviews with Collins as well as a television miniseries planned for 1985.

"Hollywood Wives" is a scathing satire about the lives of superstars and their avaricious spouses whose ticket to ride is a famous husband. Most of the action transpires in California's glitzy microcosm, Beverly Hills — where kinky sex, drugs, money and movie business artifices are rampant.

Now this sounds like another trash wallow a la Harold Robbins and Judith Krantz, but it isn't. It's an original, hilariously disgusting and painfully engrossing parody on the pretenses of the celebrity belt that is written with slang-saturated dialogue and raunchy narration. Collins uses this droll storytelling verve to expose each character's sordid past and chronicle their bizarre sexual conquests with wit and lovably obnoxious humor.

The book opens up with nauseating zeal in Philadelphia as a deranged auto mechanic hacks up his parents and his hooker girlfriend with a machete. Then the scene switches to Beverly Hills where the

wife of a film legend is watching a sleazeball intruder urinate in her swimming pool. This campy outrageousness never lets up as Collins takes the reader on a roller coaster ride through the lives of cocaine-snorting jet setters, casting couch graduates, crippled Vietnam vet gays, overendowed Jesus fanatics and every other farcical character all blend in with the main story and lead up to the unexpected climax involving the murdering maniac and the stars.

From cover to cover, the book is a suspenseful sizzler that will have you howling with laughter and gasping with delightful disgust. It completely eclipses anything by Robbins or Krantz, as Collins doesn't try to write with the least bit of classy style. And that's how a true "trashy novel" should be written — as tawdry as possible.

"Hollywood Wives" is the *roman a clef* to top them all and it is absorbing enough to satisfy any reader.

Shorts

What is radio drama at KZUM Community Radio all about? Only the Shadow knows.

But if you're interested, you can call him and find out. KZUM is beginning a series of locally produced radio plays and needs actors who want their voices to be heard in the plays of G. B. Shaw, W. B. Yeats and others. You don't have to be an actor. You don't have to sound like Lamont Cranston (but if you do, call right away). Contact the Shadow, Peter Schmitt, at 435-8060, 475-2493 or call KZUM, 474-5086.

The annual alfresco auditions and public preview of the Kansas City Renaissance Festival will be held at 2 p.m. on August 4 at Frank Theis Memorial Mall near Volker Fountain in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Ministry of Revelry is seeking minstrels, magicians, mimes, jugglers, specialty acts and intriguing street characters. Performers should prepare a three minute presentation; costumes are encouraged, but not required. The public is invited to attend the auditions and meet with the King and Queen and their Royal Court.

For more information, call (816) 561-8005.

