

# 'Private Life' to open Van Halen concert

By Michael Deeds  
Staff Reporter

A certain mystique surrounds a band with the name "Private Life."

It conjures up imagery of question and mystery. And according to Danny Johnson, guitarist for the band, Private Life's audiences have had to deal with a little mystery.

"It's kind of been hard touring," he said. "A lot of people don't quite know who we are yet."

Private Life is a recently-formed rock band currently touring with the rock superstar group Van Halen.

Along with Johnson, the band consists of vocalist Kelly Breznik, bass player Jay Davis, keyboardist Jennifer Blakeman and drummer Lenny Campanaro.

The band formed about a 1 1/2 years ago, Johnson said, after Eddie Van Halen's wife Valerie persuaded her husband to listen to music Breznik and Johnson were playing.

Van Halen liked the sound, and asked the band if he could produce their first album.

"It was really Kelly that inspired all of this," Johnson said. "Her voice is great."

Johnson, who has played with big names like Alice Cooper, Rod Stewart and Alcatraz, said all the members of Private Life were involved in other music projects

before the band formed.

Johnson met Van Halen about ten years ago, but did not know him personally, he said. After meeting the band, Van Halen encouraged Private Life to skip the club scene and focus on songwriting and recording, he said.

"This never would have happened so easily without Eddie," he said. "But it would have happened."

Johnson said Private Life plays "melodic hard rock with a little progressive edge to it."

Members add their own talents to the band, he said. The combination of modern bass and tying keyboards, along with powerful drums and guitar, provides a solid sound to back the powerful vocals of Breznik, he said.

Private Life's self-titled album, which was released last week, has made the band more secure on-stage, Johnson said, because more people have started to recognize the band.

"When we first started touring, we were nervous as hell," he said. "We were worried about getting booed off the stage, about people yelling 'Eddie' or 'Sammy.'"

But more than a month into the tour, things are flowing smoothly, he said.

"Everything has been great," he said. "Van Halen has been great to us."

Johnson said the band has been



Private Life

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

accepted by all its audiences, but people who know the album was produced by Eddie Van Halen are especially easy to please.

"When they know Eddie did the album, it's kind of like a stamp of approval," he said.

The band just completed filming a video for the first single off

the album, "Put Out The Fire." The video was filmed in New York City, and is due out in about a month, he said.

Private Life is not an L.A.-bred band, like many bands gaining popularity today. With the exception of Campanaro, all the members are from Louisiana, Johnson

said. "I'm looking forward to playing in Lincoln," he said. "I love earthy towns and states."

Private Life will open for Van Halen Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Johnson said the band will begin playing its 30-minute set at 8 p.m.

# 'New' Van Halen to perform Saturday at Devaney

By Michael Deeds  
Staff Reporter

The hard-rock superstar group Van Halen will be performing Saturday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Bob Devaney Sports Center.

## concert PREVIEW

Hailing from Pasadena, Calif., the band has grown into one of the most popular musical acts of all time.

Van Halen originally formed as Mammoth in 1974 and was signed in 1977. The quartet consisted of vocalist David Lee Roth, brothers Edward and Alex Van Halen on guitar and drums, and bassist Michael Anthony.

A huge promotional push launched the band on its way to immense fame in the United States, but a breakthrough in Europe on such a large scale has escaped them.

Songs like "Pretty Woman," "Panama" and "Hot For Teacher" helped Van Halen to remain on top

of the hard-rock scene.

The band's success in the 1970s and early '80s can be attributed not only to its basic musical style, but to the members' outrageous personalities.

Athletic David Lee Roth's stage persona of wild clothes, complete obnoxiousness and animal magnetism appealed to most rock fans.

Eddie Van Halen's guitar prowess and "American boy" looks clashed with Roth's style, creating an interesting effect.

But, as most Van Halen fans know, this clash continued after

shows were over and developed into a problem between the two band members. Roth eventually left the band.

Replacement vocalist Sammy Hagar, whose vocal style is quite different from Roth's, disillusioned a lot of Van Halen fans, creating two sets of fans — many people now like "old" Van Halen or "new" Van Halen. Very few like both.

But this lineup change has not hindered the band's huge popularity. Leading the "Monsters of Rock" tour this summer, the band

enjoyed enthusiastic fans and devoted groupies while playing with other big names like Metallica, Dokken and the Scorpions.

Van Halen has begun using more keyboards and lately has tried to appeal to a larger audience.

Opening for Van Halen will be Private Life, a new band produced by Eddie Van Halen. Show time is 8 p.m.

Tickets are still available for \$18.25 at local ticket outlets and can also be obtained starting Saturday after 12 p.m. at the Devaney Box Office.

# Sheldon's festival continues with Taiwanese film

By Micki Haller  
Senior Editor

"A Time to Live and a Time to Die" is one of the two films from Taiwan in the New Chinese Cinema festival playing at the Sheldon Film Theater.

The movie follows the personal experiences of director Hou Hsiao-

Hsien when he was growing up in Taiwan.

The movie begins with a narration of events. In 1947, Hou's father went to Taiwan, and in 1949, he sent for his family.

Hou's grandmother, mother, and six siblings go to Taiwan, and start a new life that begins to break away from the traditions of mainland

China.

But even as the new generation begins to emerge, traditions of the past cling. The film is filled with references to old superstitions, such as if a cat jumps over a corpse, the body will sit up. The superstition is accepted as fact, but new reasons, such as electric current, explain the mysterious occurrence.

Still, westernization and progress are dominant throughout the film. Young Hou steals from his mother, then progresses to gambling, whoring and gang warfare.

Particularly interesting is Hou's relationship with his grandmother. She is eager to go back to the mainland and pay homage to the ancestors. Grandmother also had Hou's for-

tune told when he was born, and she believes he will become a great official.

Hou seems indulgent of his grandmother; he goes with her once on the road to the mainland.

"A Time to Live and a Time to Die" will show Saturday at 12:15 and 9:15 p.m., and Sunday at 3 and 9:15 p.m.

# 'Liquid Sky' features smutty aliens; Movie packed with special techniques

"Liquid Sky," a low-budget smutty sci-fi cult classic, will be showing tonight and Sunday at 7 and 9 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

## movie REVIEW

The latest film in the University Program Council American Films Series came out in the summer of 1983.

The plot, according to New York magazine, has tiny aliens landing on a Manhattan apartment building and attaching themselves to Margaret (Anne Carlisle), a New Wave fashion model whose friends use a lot of heroin.

The aliens are in search of pleasure; they want smack, and they want a euphoria-inducing chemical produced by the brain during orgasm.

Margaret, a decadent regular on the club scene, is constantly besieged by lovers and rapists of both sexes. Her pursuers begin to die off as the unseen aliens suck the chemicals from their brains.

She becomes an avenger, and after she has killed off all her lovers and tormentors, she ascends to heaven in a flying saucer.

Director Slava Tsukerman, who immigrated from the Soviet Union in 1973, delivers the outrageousness of an on-the-edge youth counterculture on an extremely low budget of \$400,000, but man-

ages to pack the film with special techniques.

Tsukerman, his wife Nina Kerova and Anne Carlisle wrote the script, basing some of the incidents on Carlisle's experience in some of New York's hedonistic clubs.

Carlisle plays a double role in the movie as Margaret and as Jimmy, a junkie who snarls a lot.

Despite the sad, nasty lives of the main characters, "Liquid Sky" manages to retain a dry humor throughout. Several reviews say this is not a belly-laugh movie, but contains wry situations.

Tickets are \$1 for students with University of Nebraska-Lincoln identification, and \$2 for the general public.

# Gay, Lesbian film festival aims to educate students

From Staff Reports

The first ever Gay and Lesbian Film Festival begins today and runs through Sunday.

Sponsored in part by the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights, the six features and nine shorts were chosen to educate and entertain the public.

The Common Woman Bookstore, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Gay and Lesbian Student Group and the University Program Council Gay/Lesbian Programming Committee and American Films also sponsored the event.

"The Virgin Machine" was a hit of last spring's San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

German filmmaker Monika Treut tells the story of Dorothy (Ina Blum), a young German intellectual looking

for love among men while researching the nature of attraction. Dorothy immigrates to America and meet several remarkable women in California.

"Anita, Dances of Vice" is the latest film by Rosa Von Praunheim. "Anita" resurrects Berlin's once notorious Anita Berber.

Berber personified Weimar depravity, and was a symbol of decadence, perversity, bisexuality and drugs during her time.

In the film, an old woman (Lotti Huber) claims to be Berber.

"A Death in the Family," a widely acclaimed film from New Zealand, tells the story of Andrew Boyd, the fourth person in New Zealand to die of AIDS.

Directors Stewart Main and Peter

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