

'Passion' portrays dark side of marriage

theater REVIEW

By Jo Bradsky
Staff Reporter

"Passion" traces the marriage of a middle-aged couple and the harsh reality when it is forced to deal with adultery.

This dark comedy, written by Peter Nichols, was performed beautifully Sunday afternoon by a 14-member cast at the Studio Theatre in the Temple Building.

Lissy DeGrazia played Kate, a promiscuous woman who thrives on the thrill of the chase and sex. She loves her sexual freedom, and her control over men allows her to get whomever she wants.

James Croxley, played by Chuck Morgan, and Eleanore, played by Joan Korte-Henrichs, are friends of Kate. They helped her through the death of Kate's lover and their dear friend, Albert.

James, a first-time adulterer, whose life-size conscience, played by Steve Pauna, intensifies each scene by shouting out how he thinks James should respond.

The best part about "Passion" is that the characters of James and Eleanore are each played by two actors. One actor is the conscience, the other is the public mask.

Eleanore defends Kate throughout

the play, especially toward Albert's ex-wife, Agnes, who was dumped by Albert for Kate. Stephanie Beerling played Agnes.

Even after Albert's death, Agnes continues to plot against the evil Kate, and happens to stumble upon a letter to Kate from James when she went through Kate's mail.

Agnes is the bitter bearer of bad news as she shows Eleanore the letter. James reassures Eleanore it's over, and Eleanore shares that she slept with Albert before Albert left Agnes for Kate. This is friendship.

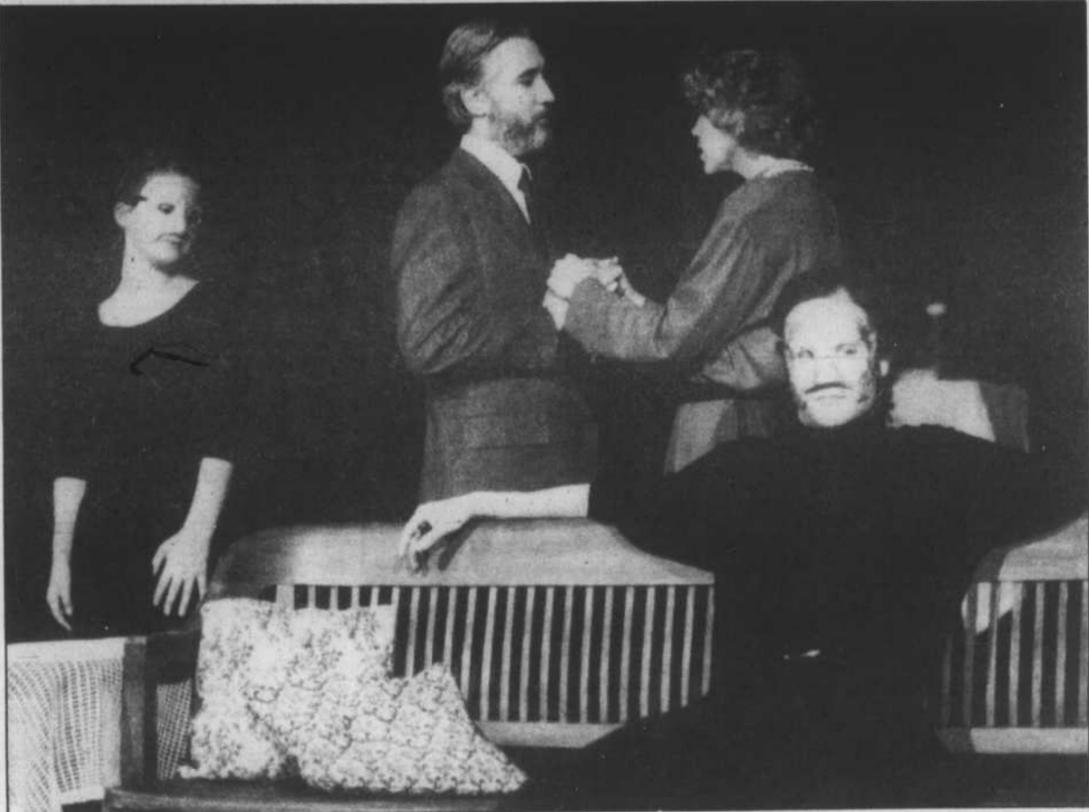
The final scene shows the mental and verbal manipulation when everything is resolved and "back to normal" when, in fact, nothing has changed at all.

The actors grasped the essence of their characters and their roles flowed smoothly into each scene.

The loud choir music that preceded the performance, the use of red in all the drinks, from tea to wine, and the candid dialogue set this play apart from other plays that touch on this subject.

Directed by Michael Solomonson, a UNL doctoral theater student, "Passion" unveils the masks that hide the dark side of marriage.

"Passion" is the final performance of the University Theatre Arts and Dance Theatrical season. Theatrical, a forum for experimental theater, will begin its next season in mid-January.



Julia Mikolajcik/DN

The main characters of "Passion" are, from left: Catherine Bozell as Nell, Eleanore's conscience; Chuck Morgan as James; Joan Korte-Henrichs as Eleanore; and Steve Pauna as Jim, James' conscience.

Skillful rapper's debut album should help him pay the bills

Reviews



Artist's CD worth the wait

"The Skills Dat Pay Da Bills"
Positive K
Island Records

Positive K finally got his break and released his debut album "The Skills Dat Pay Da Bills."

With skills that this rapper has, he should be able to pay lots of bills.

Starting his career with the First Priority Records family, Positive K appeared on "Basement Flavor," a compilation album produced in 1988.

He had three tracks on the album: "Impulse on Three" with Barsha; "Tramp" with Milk D, an answer-type song to Salt 'N' Pepa; and the classic dis rap with MC Lyte "I'm Not Havin' It," which introduced Positive K to the world as a dog.

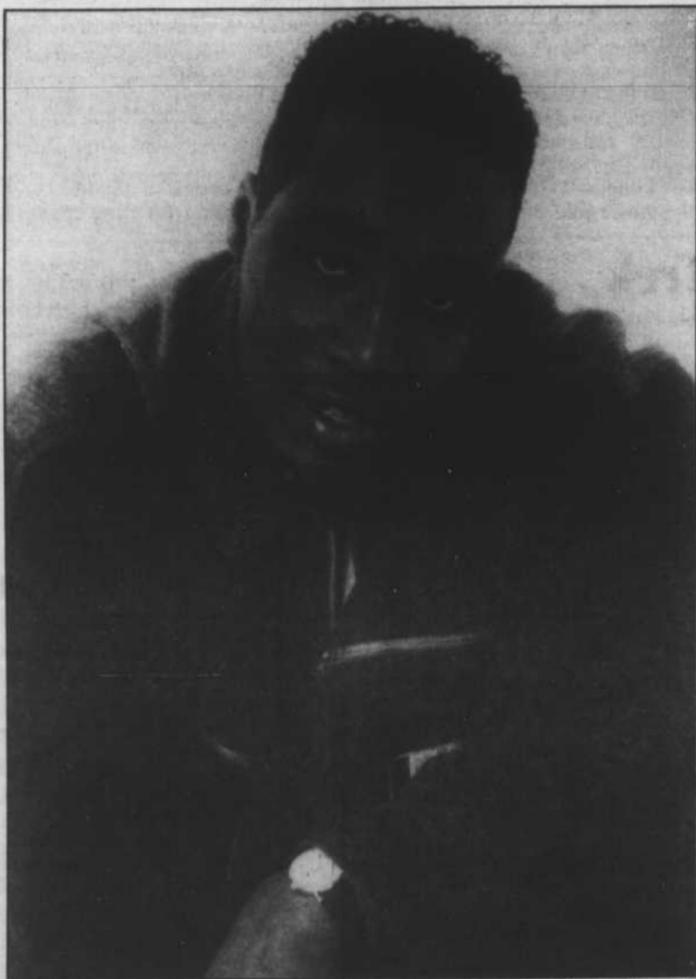
Positive K showed up on the Audio Two album, "I Don't Care," in 1990 and did a song with Milk D and MC Lyte called "Start It Up Y'all."

Now after several years as a back-seat rider, Positive K takes the wheel.

The "basement flavor" that Positive K has been involved with has been funk up on his new album. Funky guitar samples add a new dimension to the Positive K raps.

Most of the album is mixed and co-produced by Easy LG and this team works well. They hook up on songs like the tongue-trippin' "Shakin'" and the horn-laden "Carhoppers," a song about girls who get with guys just for their cars.

The boys pull in Jazzy Jay to produce "One 2 the Head," and come off with the jazz that has come to be expected.



Courtesy of Island Records

Rapper Positive K makes his solo debut with "The Skills Dat Pay Da Bills."

Big Daddy Kane co-wrote and produced "Night Shift." Positive K promotes the mack-daddy pimp lifestyle and works his girls at night.

Positive K re-creates his famous dis-rap style in his first release, "I Got a Man." He does a good job keeping the style fresh after he originally popularized it in 1988.

Grand Daddy IU appears in the remake of "Minnie the Moocher." With his ragamuffin wails and a smooth bass groove, Positive K is

set for a smooth ride.

The only slight disappointment from Positive K is in "The Shout Out." If only the hard-rocking rhymes wouldn't stop after 60 seconds to start the naming of his homeboys.

Nonetheless, practically every track is strong.

"The Skills Dat Pay Da Bills" was definitely worth the wait.

—Greg Schick

'Erotica' another step in Madonna's fad legacy

Reviews



"Erotica"
Madonna
Maverick/Sire Records

For about the last decade, Madonna has been a trendsetter as far as setting the tone for fashion.

First it was the "Like a Virgin" fad. Next was the "Material Girl" fad. "Vogue" was the follow-up fad that was just two years ago.

Now Madonna has outdone herself with her "Erotica" fad. Whether fans will start to be seen with slicked-back hair, blackened out teeth, leather clothes and fetishes for sadism and masochism will remain to be seen.

One thing that has remained constant for Madonna, though, is her music. Madonna is the female equivalent of Michael Jackson, in that everything she touches seems to become gold.

"Erotica" is the latest LP in the Madonna library. It comes complete

with a book and pictures accompanying it.

"Erotica," the first single off the LP, is destined to go to No. 1.

It is quite the racy tune with lyrics such as: "Give it up, do as I say/Give it up and let me have it my way/I'll give you love/I'll hit you like a truck/I'll give you love/I'll show you how to..."

This song is pure Madonna and lets the listener experience the Madonna transition from being vogue to being erotic.

"Fever" is the follow-up song to "Erotica," and surprisingly there is no drop-off. This cut is funky. "Fever" has the house sound to it that will appeal to the listener.

"Bye Bye Baby," also has that house sound but is a bit more seductive.

Madonna is able to maintain the level at which "Erotica" starts, and there is no drop-off.

"Deeper And Deeper," which is like a tame version of "Vogue," even seems to work for Madonna. She is

See MADONNA on 10

Plethora of facts, history fills Star Trek Companion



"The Star Trek: The Next Generation Companion"
Larry Nemecek
Pocket Books

By Bryan Peterson
Staff Reporter

Now five years old and possessing as strong a following as ever, "Star Trek: The Next Generation" continues to hold a magical, mysterious draw upon its viewers.

Another season of episodes will begin next fall, and possibly another after that.

This January, the spin-off series "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" will continue to add to the Star Trek mythos.

Dozens of novels based upon both the original "Star Trek" characters and those in "The Next Generation" continue to fill the best-seller lists.

Also popular are a growing number of non-fiction books related to both series. One of the most recent is "Star Trek: TNG Companion," a sort of encyclopedia for viewers and trivia buffs alike.

Plot and production summaries are provided for all 125 episodes that have been aired, along with a black-and-white photograph from each episode.

Of greatest interest are the paragraphs of background information that also accompany each synopsis. In those lines the reader finds the most surprising and rewarding bits of information: how a Writers' Guild strike nixed a script that would have differently revived Spock from the original series, or which props were altered

See TREK on 10