

## 'Stakeout' sequel hilarious

"Another Stakeout"



By Gerry Beltz  
Staff Reporter

More chemistry than substance, "Another Stakeout" (Plaza 4, 12th and P Streets) still hits the mark as a more-than-acceptable sequel.

Original cast members Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez are back with director John Badham to work

the magic that made the first "Stakeout" such a phenomenal success.

Seattle detectives Chris and Bill (Dreyfuss and Estevez) are assigned to locate a key witness to a mob trial who has recently escaped protective custody in Las Vegas. Along with assistant district attorney Gina Garrett (Rosie O'Donnell), they pose as a family to watch over the house of some friends of the witness.

Unfortunately, Badham concentrates too much on the interaction between Estevez and Dreyfuss, and not enough on following the movie itself. The results is an ending that

appears rushed.

Still, the hijinx that Chris and Bill have (and inflict) with each other, as well as with their untrained stakeout partner Gina, provides one hilarious moment after another. O'Donnell is also terrific as the lovably-bizarre A.D.A.

Several jokes from the first film are carried over to this one, and listen for Dreyfuss doing a quote from his Academy Award-winning role in "The Goodbye Girl."

"Another Stakeout" is a proverbial hoot.

## Original author pens 'crazy' novel

Spalding Gray  
Impossible Vacation  
Vintage Books



By Mark Baldridge  
Staff Reporter

Spalding Gray is a story teller in the tradition of... uh, well, in the tradition of Spalding Gray.

That is, he's one of a kind. A renaissance in the art of the spoken word is going on even as we speak — with such notable practitioners as Garrison Keillor, Jello Biafra and Laurie Anderson. It includes even those radio ads for Motel 6 with Tom Bodett.

Spalding Gray is a story teller in

this larger tradition. His monologues, in live shows and on video, have earned him spots on Letterman and success in Hollywood.

Probably his most famous performance piece — the one most readily available in video stores — is "Swimming to Cambodia" which chronicles the making of "The Killing Fields," a film in which Gray had a minor part.

With "Impossible Vacation" Gray attempts his first novel. Now he's telling a story in print, one that claims to be "untrue" — fiction.

The results are a little uneven, if genuinely funny.

The story is certainly engaging, and a very easy read. It contains a taste of irony and self mockery that makes the whole more palatable.

Gray only falters in one section, dealing with his main character's — Brewster North's — nervous breakdown.

Anyone who's ever put up with someone in similar circumstances

knows that crazy people — far from the romance that surrounds the idea of madness — are really tedious, annoying and unbelievably repetitive.

Gray, to his credit, captures this feeling.

But he captures it in the wrong way. The brief passage that describes North's mental deterioration is itself tedious, annoying and repetitive.

At first you wonder why his friends put up with him, and then why you continue to — and just about the time you want to flip to the next chapter, the maddening loop breaks up like an old ragged storm front and moves on.

North is still crazy — he spends a good part of the book more or less crazy — but he's back to his wry old self just when you need him to be.

So "Impossible Vacation" turns out to be a pretty good book for the beach, if no Nobel prize winner.

But it's a must-read for all those oddly grinning fans of it's author — the oddly grinning Spalding Gray.

## Shakespeare's play 'The Tempest' on at Rep

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska Repertory Theater's production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest" is open and will run through Aug. 14.

The play will be performed at the Howell Theater on weekdays and

Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 3:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the Temple Building.

The cast includes Michael Burg, who has performed in past Rep productions, and State Sen. David Landis of Lincoln.

Pat Overton, managing director of

The Rep, said "The Tempest" was an interesting play that would appeal to students.

"It's a very stylized production," she said. "This is Shakespeare's last play — kind of a farewell to everyone — whether he knew it or not."

## Benefit album provides relief

"Sweet Relief"  
A Benefit for Victoria Williams  
Thirsty Ear/Chaos Records



By Jill O'Brien  
Staff Reporter

In the spring of 1992, while touring with Neil Young, singer and songwriter Victoria Williams was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

Williams told Musician magazine, "When I think of the diseases you could have, it's not such a bad one."

Right. Things could be worse, like being signed to a record company that insures the life, but not the health of an individual artist. Such is the case of Williams.

Fortunately, fans and talented friends held two benefit concerts to raise money and help defray medical costs.

Inspired by their show of concern, Williams set up a fund to help other uninsured musicians fight medical expenses.

But Williams wasn't the only one inspired.

After the benefit concerts, several artists joined together to record "Sweet Relief," an acoustic compilation of Williams' songs. The

songs range from "This Moment," a catchy mandolin-backed melody, sung by former Lincolnite, Matthew Sweet, to "Weeds," a simple track that rocks to the beat of a different drummer, not to mention Michael Penn's vocals.

The result of "Sweet Relief" is nothing less than 14 incredible tracks pooling the talents of Soul Asylum, Lucinda Williams, Pearl Jam, Buffalo Tom, Shudder to Think, Lou Reed, Maria McKee, Evan Dando of Lemonheads, The Jayhawks, The Waterboys, Giant Sand and Michelle Shocked, with Penn and Sweet.

This album is a crackerjack box full of sweet stories and surprises.

Soul Asylum opens with "Summer of Drugs," a ballsy mainstream ballad about teenagers falling between category cracks, as defined in the chorus.

"And we were too young to be hippies; missed out on the love/turned to a teen in the late '70s in the summer of the drugs."

On the track, "Lights," The Jayhawks have an uncanny ability to sound like early Grateful Dead while Shudder to Think adds an alternative flair to the song, "Animal Wild." The Waterboys boogie to a Calypso beat of "Why Look at the Moon" and Michelle Shocked closes with Williams' gospel song, "Holy Spirit."

These 14 tracks are only a smattering of what Williams has written. More originals can be heard on her previously released albums, "Happy Come Home" and "Swing the Statue."

# Nebraska Rep!

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