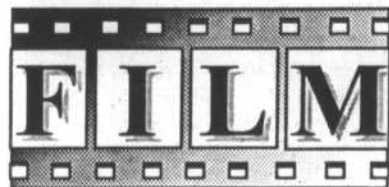


Film paints humorous picture of '90s youth

Stars give movie solid performances



"Reality Bites"



By Anne Steyer
Staff Reporter

The whole idea of Generation X is annoying, but "Reality Bites" turns those tired stereotypes into a funny and accurate look into the twentysomethings of today.

Young people growing up in the '90s have a whole different future in which to live. It's not as cookie-cutter as the '50s, as crazy as the '60s and '70s, or as me-oriented as the '80s.

"Reality Bites" captures this confusion in a way that is comforting and comedic.

The terribly overrated Winona Ryder is Lelaina Pierce, a newly

graduated broadcasting major who is making a documentary about real life and searching for direction.

Complicating her search is Troy Dyer (Ethan Hawke), her slacker friend/tortured love interest who can't keep a job and doesn't want to. Ben Stiller does double duty as both the movie's director and the other part of the love triangle. But the audience knows from the beginning that this yuppie will never win Lelaina's heart.

Their friends, Gap manager Vickie and celibate Sammy, round out the cast, making the picture of young life in the '90s complete. It has the horrendous job search, the lack of qualifications, the overqualifications and the self-important WeinerWorld manager. There's also sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll — both old and new — and the horrors of AIDS.

Underneath, "Reality Bites" is a love story, and this, along with its endless preoccupation with '70s sitcoms and Saturday morning commercials, is where the movie trips up.

But the love story is masked under terrific writing, dialogue and characterization. "Reality Bites" is the first screenplay from writer Helen Childress, and obviously she was writing close to home. Her dialogue and refreshingly real characters make the movie.

Some solid acting doesn't hurt ei-



Ethan Hawke and Winona Ryder star in the irreverent comedy "Reality Bites." Courtesy of Universal City Studios Inc.

ther. Hawke's Troy embodies everything that is both annoying and endearing about the oh-so-cool slackers, and Ryder finally makes playing her-

self seem appropriate. But the real bright spot is Janeane Garofalo, whose scene-stealing Vickie is a complete scream.

Those elements, along with its humorous, insightful look at life for most young people today, make "Reality Bites" a movie must.

Nylons to blend their voices at Lied



By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Relying on voices alone, the durability of The Nylons will stretch to the limits at the Lied Center for Performing Arts Saturday night.

This four-man a cappella group executes a wide range of vocal melodies without the help of a guitar, piano, drum or any other instrument. Together, they're going solo.

After a recent shift in the lineup of The Nylons — with the departure of founding member Paul Cooper and singer Marc Connor — the remaining voices of Claude Morrison, Micah Barnes, Garth Mosbaugh and Arnold Robinson carry on the tradition.

For Morrison, the tradition has been continuing since his days as a choir boy at the St. Michael's Choir School in Toronto.

Morrison, who jokingly says he was raised by a pack of "carnivo-

rous llamas," said he used his wit and vocal talent in his singing. He said the a cappella style, however, chose him more than he chose it.

"It was almost 15 years ago to the day when we first sang to an audience in a little restaurant in Toronto," he said, "and there just wasn't a piano around."

"The form found us just as much as we found the form," he said.

Going a cappella, Morrison said, made the group different because they weren't leaning on any gimmicks.

"It's so primitive," he said. "Anybody can understand voices."

Morrison said a cappella was challenging because the singers must have ability and listening skills.

"It's always been my opinion that it's just as important to have a good voice as it is to have a good ear," he said.

Without backup instrumentation, Morrison said staying in key with the other singers meant listening to one another's pitch to get back in key.

Along with matching pitch, Morrison said certain vocal techniques added to the smoothness and texture of their musical melody. He said with a little breath and vibrato, a hard-edged voice could be smoothed down.

The Nylons don't stand on their singing alone. With a combination of theatrics, comedy and dance, they make their music pleasing to listen to and pleasant to watch.

"When we began, we were all theater people out of work," Morrison said.

"Having come from the theater, we had a natural inclination to dress it up, to choreograph it and to light it in order to give it more of a theatrical sense.

"We want to have a little bit of fun with it."

Morrison said that following one of their more religious songs with the group's version of "Little Red Corvette" gave their sound a whole other edge — "a different kind of life."

"It gives you something to look at instead of just something to listen

to," he said. "It comes from the throat and the whole body, which makes it a very religious experience."

He said his music provided him with a more positive outlook on life because of his experiences with group singing.

"You have to put your voices together; it's almost spiritual," he said.

The concept of joining together for a common cause and making something greater than the sum of its parts was the goal of The Nylons, he said.

With eight albums under their seams, The Nylons will go for yet another one this year. Morrison's wish for 1994 will be fulfilled with the release of a Christmas album this October.

Morrison, who visited Lincoln in 1991, said he was looking forward to The Nylons' performance at the Lied Center Saturday night. The performance begins at 8 p.m. The show is sold out. However, unclaimed tickets may be purchased 1 1/2 hours before the show for \$22.

Hunt will be on at the Zoo Bar

By Jill O'Brien
Staff Reporter

Friday night will not be the first time rhythm and blues pianist Kelley Hunt has been in town, although it will be her first time to play at the Zoo Bar.

Hunt once worked the now-defunct Larry's Showcase in the early 1980s. Zoo Bar owner Larry Boehmer said.

"Then it was Kelley Hunt and the Kinetics, instead of the Kelley Hunt Band," Boehmer said. "She reminds me a lot of Marsha Ball. I'm afraid people will ignore her because she doesn't have an album out."

Alan Berman, the band's bass player and press agent, said a debut compact disc will be released this summer.

Featured on the CD is singer and Hammond B3 player Mike Finnigan, along with a multitude of all-star session players and soloists.

Hunt has a boogie-woogie style all her own. Her music also combines blues, rock, gospel, a hint of jazz, folk and soul, as well as rhythm and blues. The show starts Friday at 9 p.m. at the Zoo Bar. Tickets are \$4 at the door.

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Weekend offers theater, skating, rock 'n' roll

The ancients were right about drama. There are only two types of theater: happy stories and sad stories.

Theatrix's latest production, "Talley's Folly," is a happy story exploring the relationship between two people. A socialist Jewish accountant, played by Michael Solomonson, revisits his true love, a socialist nurse played by Kristi Lee Covey.

Just as in "Romeo and Juliet," the two overcome fearsome obstacles. But since "Talley's Folly" is a modern play written by Lanford Wilson, the lovers overcome Freudian baggage and communication blocks instead of feuding families or warring nations.

Despite the heavy political overtones, this production is sweet and sentimental. Its director, Gregory Tavares, delivers a beautiful story.

"Talley's Folly" plays again tonight in the Temple Building.

—Patrick Hambrecht

Knickerbockers at 901 O St. will offer a tension-releasing opportunity tonight. Hailing from Lawrence, Kan., LowLife will be storming through Lincoln in support of its full-length debut album, "LoveHateFear," released by Mercy Records.

If the album is any indication of how these four guys sound live, it should be a killer show. The tracks are raw and powerful and take no prisoners. At times they sound like the Chili Peppers; at times they sound like four guys playing in a garage, ripping out music as it was meant to be — raw and powerful.

Lincoln's own Heroes and Villains will be opening for LowLife. It should prove to be one ripping show.

—William Harms

Olympic champion figure skaters will perform in front of a captivated audience tonight — some in

Lillehammer, Norway, and some in Lincoln.

Headliners in Lincoln will include 1992 Olympic skating champions Marina Kilmova and Sergei Ponomarenko, along with 1988 silver medalist Elizabeth Manley.

Kilmova and Ponomarenko are two of the most acclaimed ice dancers of all time. The husband-and-wife team gained world recognition in the 1984 Olympics by winning the bronze in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. In 1988, the skaters were able to capture the silver medal at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, Alberta. Their career was topped with their winning of the gold medal at the 1992 Olympics in Albertville, France.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Pershing Auditorium. Tickets are still available at the Pershing Auditorium box office and at all Ticketmaster locations.

—Sean McCarthy

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