

out in the WIDE open



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

HEATH COLE (left), singer and guitarist for Wide, jams with bass player Jimmy Webb during a practice session Tuesday night.



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

HEATH COLE puts on his best rock star face in preparation for tonight's concert at Hangar 18, 1118 O St.

Band prospers despite distinctive, diverse past

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

Heath Cole is losing at gin rummy. Not that it really matters — rock stars don't need to be good at card games. All right, so maybe the frontman for Wide isn't exactly a rock star, but not for lack of trying.

Cole is at his drummer Jason Anderson's house, playing gin and listening to Jimi Hendrix. Anderson's dog, Oscar, wheezes and gnaws at his bone on the floor, while Anderson takes a drag from his cigarette and beats Cole at another round.

Cole was a bass player with Lincoln's Manic Beach before starting Wide in 1994, simultaneously switching to guitar and picking up the vocal chores. Wide's current lineup, which includes the for-now absent

“
It's like a soap opera.
It's just rock 'n' roll, for
God's sakes.”

HEATH COLE
singer/guitarist for Wide

bassist Jeremy Webb, is actually in its fourth generation.

“It has to do with me wanting to be able to keep going if someone else doesn't want to do it anymore,” Cole says.

Please see WIDE on 13

Movie Review

Family unites with distress, anxiety, lies

By ANN STACK
Film Critic

This movie lives up to its title ... it's filled with secrets and lies.

I gave this flick a “B” sheerly on the basis of its maudlin British blathering. I think it had a happy ending, but I'm still not quite sure ... it's one of those where you're left scratching your head at the end, feeling emotionally drained and glad it's over.

The plot is promising: Hortense (Marianne Jean-Baptiste) is a successful black optometrist living in London. After her adoptive mother dies, she decides to find her birth mother. In the course of her search, she stumbles across some disconcerting information: Her birth mother is white.

Cynthia (Brenda Blethyn) is a lonely, broken woman who works in a box factory. She lives in a run-down flat with her ungrateful daughter Roxanne (Claire Rushbrook), a road sweeper.

Not too far across town is Cynthia's younger brother Maurice (Timothy Spall). He's a successful portrait and wedding photographer married to Monica (Phyllis Logan), an interior decorator who can't have children.

Hortense finally gets the courage to call Cynthia. What ensues is the typical, “You're not my daughter.” “Yes, I am.” “I think I would remember sleeping with a black man,” etc.

Eventually Cynthia coughs up a deeply suppressed memory, and admits that, yes, Hortense is her daughter. The whole situation is played out in a very realistic manner, with no sappy boo-hoing.

There are awkward moments and plenty of distress between the two women. For a while, it looks as though they're just going to give up, but they plug away and eventually establish a loving mother-daughter relationship. Problem is, they have to keep it a secret, because Roxanne doesn't know she has a half-sister knocking about.

Maurice decides to throw a barbecue party for Roxanne's 21st birthday, and Cynthia invites Hortense along, introducing her as a “friend from work.” But the strain of keeping a secret is too much for her, and she spills the beans. That's when the you-know-what hits the fan.

Other secrets and lies come out during the aftermath, although we never find out who Hortense's father really is. Other questions remain unanswered as well.

Blethyn was honored as Best Actress at the 1996 Cannes Film Festival for her portrayal as the highly neurotic, disturbed Cynthia. She does an excellent job; she's just pathetic enough that the audience doesn't want to sympathize with her.

Writer and director Mike Leigh milks the title for all it's worth — it takes forever to get to the meat of the plot. Although a bit overdone in some places, the movie was amazingly well put together, and deserves a look-see.

“Secrets and Lies” is being shown at the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater tonight through Sunday and again Jan. 30 through Feb. 2. Screenings are at 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays; at 1 and 7 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 3, 6:30 and 9 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is \$6 for the public, \$5 for students and \$4 for seniors, children and members of the Friends of the Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater.

The Facts

Film: “Secrets and Lies”
Stars: Brenda Blethyn, Timothy Spall, Marianne Jean-Baptiste
Director: Mike Leigh
Rating: R (language, adult content)
Grade: B
Five Words: Flick's feel-good factor falls short

Popular ballet ‘Giselle’ to appear at Lied

Russian dance troupe stages acclaimed performance in first American tour

By LANE HICKENBOTTOM
Staff Reporter

Lied-goers will be romanced Friday and Saturday night as the 50-member Moscow Festival Ballet brings the classic story of “Giselle” to Lincoln.

The ballet troupe is performing “Giselle” in its first tour of the United States since the company was founded in 1989. Reaction to the company has been extraordinary in its two tours of Europe.

“Giselle” is among the most famous ballets

from the Romantic era. First seen in Moscow in 1843, the story involves a young peasant girl, Giselle, who falls in love with a man she believes is a common villager, Loys. After finding out that her love is really a nobleman, Count Albrecht, she tries to kill herself with his sword but ends up dying of shock.

The second act includes Albrecht visiting Giselle's grave, where her ghost appears to him. There is an attempt on Albrecht's life, but Giselle pleads for him to be saved.

Aside from razor-sharp dancing, audiences at the Lied Center for the Performing Arts can expect to find athletic artistry, magnificent

floor-length costumes and immaculate background scenery.

Directing the Moscow Festival Ballet is the former principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet, Sergei Radchenko.

Starring in the performance will be leading dancers from across Russia, with members of the Bolshoi and Kirov ballets. Kirov prima ballerina Lubov Kunakova has helped to establish this exciting new company.

Tickets to Friday and Saturday's 8 p.m. shows are available at the Lied Center for \$38, \$34 and \$30. Tickets are \$18 for students and those under 18.