

Morphine brings rock noir to Liberty Hall in Lawrence

By CHRIS THOMAS
Music Critic

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Can you say "low rock" without flinching?

Drummer Billy Conway did, when asked to describe Morphine's innovative rock noir sound. The combination of two-string bass, saxophone and drums smells of simplicity, yet conveys the most complicated of emotions and experiences.

With no fancy lighting, no elaborate stage and no opening act, Morphine took the stage in a sold-out Liberty Hall on Tuesday night. Led by Mark Sandman, singer and bassist, Conway and saxophonist Dana Colley, Morphine prepared to deliver its own brand of rock with a twist of cool.

The hour-and-a-half set spanned all four albums, including their latest release, "Like Swimming." The two-string slide bass resonated with the baritone sax, filling the hall with an ambience of pain, recovery, sadness and resilience. "Buena," off "Cure For Pain," along with that album's title cut, glowed in the dim light of the auditorium. Morphine's talent shone through the murky smoke with a clean and crisp show including Colley playing two saxophones

at once.

Banter with the crowd seemed plentiful during a Morphine "infomercial."

"More than a commercial and less than information," Sandman said jokingly, as he peddled the wares of the band. His laid-back style has been compared to the likes of Jack Kerouac and is unmistakable during the band's performances.

The five-song encore included a charged rendition of "Lucky Day," from "Good." The emotional and soul-searching cut "In Spite of Me" washed waves of remorse over the crowd, while substituting the mandolin for a bass and baritone sax.

Sandman's battle with drug addictions has spawned many of Morphine's seemingly autobiographical songs.

This honest and true-to-form style has won over many fans for Morphine and has rocketed the band into the public eye.

"Early to Bed," the first single off Morphine's latest album, is already in heavy rotation on MTV. Playing on the H.O.R.D.E. tour and recording for a new label (Dreamworks) exemplify the strides the band is making, and the members of Morphine are excited about the success.

Sincerity adds depth to romance

ABBOTTS from page 12

were young, leaving a widowed mother to support the family as a school teacher.

The Abbotts are the royal family of Haley, a position envied by Jacey and not entirely understood by Doug. The two boys become involved with the sisters of this family, creating problems that reveal a haunted past.

"Inventing the Abbotts" adds new depth to a well-reamed romance genre. The true strength of the film lies in the well-scripted characters and the complexity of their interactions. All involved struggle with their identities in the context of a small town with rigid expectations.

It is this depth that makes the story worthwhile; the unwinding plot line surprisingly adds unexpected turns, and the general charm of the film succeeds in making this picture memorable and unique.

Play addresses multiculturalism through symbolism

RAZ from page 12

The title of the play — "All Tangled Up" — was also created by the students, Raz said. "They said they felt a lot like that dealing with these issues," Raz said. "This is not a clear-cut issue, and it brings up a lot of very emotional and powerful thoughts and symbols."

Not all of the symbols are going to appeal to everyone because of the subject matter, but no one needs to worry about a violation of UNL non-smoking policy, Raz said.

"We do use symbols, and some are kind of harsh because the subjects we are dealing with are not all sweetness and light, but we do not burn a cross in the play."

"The students have been pretty unanimous in agreement that we are treating symbols correctly with respect to the issue we are dealing with."

"We have to speak the truth." The research on "All Tangled Up" was handled on several different levels, Raz said.

"One group of students interviewed people, and one student even talked to a self-avowed racist skinhead," Raz said. "Others found press clippings and the web jockeys accessed the Ku Klux Klan web site."

The purpose of the play is not to answer questions, but to raise them, Raz said.

"Our aim is not to make a definitive statement," he said. "That is rarely what theater is about."

"As implied, questions are raised more than the answers are given."

Raz said he hoped the play would generate discussion on the issues of diversity and that people would leave talking about the play and telling each other stories.

"Toward the end," he said, "we give some vision of the future, and some of our own modest stories of how to heal."

All-day blues, pig roast will have Omaha cookin'

FESTIVAL from page 12

local and otherwise — in the business. The bands performing are: The Neptunes, In Limbo, Dave Barger and the Jam Masters, Baby Jason and the Spankers, the Russell Jackson Band, Indigenous and Sherman Robertson.

The Neptunes, In Limbo, and Dave Barger and the Jam Masters are all Omaha bands, and

Baby Jason and the Spankers are from Lincoln. Russell Jackson played bass with blues legend B.B. King for seven years as part of the Silent Partners rhythm section.

Indigenous have become the blues darlings of the Midwest and have garnered national attention with their Inaugural and XSWS performances. Headliner Sherman Robertson, although a blues guitarist, played on Paul Simon's "Graceland" album, as well as with zydeco art-

ist Clifton Chenier.

Terry O'Halloran, owner of the 18th Amendment, said the concept of Blues Fest was primarily selfish in origin.

"It started because I had Russell Jackson booked for the date, and then Sherman Robertson wanted the date as well," he said. "I tried to get creative on how I could do both bands, so we decided to make it a big deal — an all-day/all-night thing."

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220 Greek Affairs

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by Triangle Pledge Class
at NBC Bank, 68th & O
Sat., April 5th & Sat., April 12th
12:30-5 pm
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- Sunday, 4/20 Car Wash continued
- Monday, 4/14 T.J. Sullivan and Joel Goldman speak on HIV, 7pm, Lied Center
- Tuesday, 4/15 Banner Contest & SPIRIT DAY—WEAR YOUR LETTERS
- Wednesday, 4/16 Greek Olympics; time/place TBA
- Thursday, 4/17 Greek Week Banquet, 6:30pm, University Club, Stuart Building
- Friday, 4/18 BBO's \$ Block Party; time/place TBA
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ΣAE

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Lincoln Country Club
Friday, April 11

ΣΧ

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The men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

230 Student Government

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240 Personals

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