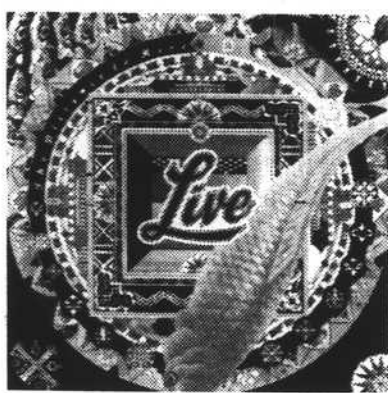


New Releases



Live
"The Distance to Here"
Radioactive
Grade: A

which is very new for Live."

New indeed, because these questions may not be answered on "The Distance to Here." The anger apparent in previous releases has mellowed, providing a new energy for a great-sounding rock 'n' roll album.

The only single released so far has been "The Dolphin's Cry," which has been in regular rotation on commercial and college radio stations, as well as MTV.

The closest radio-friendly song after the first single could be "They Stood Up For Love," in which the band rolls through a looping crescendo while trying to find a place to call home.

However, many songs could fit the hit-single status Live has enjoyed, including "Run To The Water" and "Dance With You" - both prototypes for radio play.

The strongest vocally may be "The Distance," where Kowalczyk's voice bends from high to low and creates a type of mystery into which Chad Gracey on drums and Patrick Dahlheimer are happy to follow.

Chad Taylor's guitar is strong on all tracks but especially solid on "We Walk In The Dream," which features a long, winding solo.

Kowalczyk has said after every release he hopes the band from York, Pa., grows musically. On "The Distance To Here," it appears Live has grown. Spiritually, the band is allowing its questions of life to remain unanswered. It's also letting the music take over, not the sound of anger.

The album may sound different at first to any long-time Live fan, which is what Live wants. But after listening extensively, they are reminded - by dark images and talk of God and love - of what started it all for Live: "Mental Jewelry."

"The Distance to Here" will make a perfect bookend to the Live collection.

-Mike Warren

Omaha theater marks Halloween with series of spoofs, scary sketches

DANELL MCCOY
Staff writer

It is the month of ghouls and goblins, ghosts and vampires and the annual Halloween show at the Shelterbelt Theatre.

For the past four seasons, the Shelterbelt Theatre, 3225 1/2 California St. in Omaha, has celebrated Halloween with its show, "Shelterskelter."

"Shelterskelter" consists of nine sketches, all written by various local playwrights, with a haunted theme.

"Past shows have been traditionally more bloody," cast member Don Nguyen said. "This year, we tried to get away from that. We wanted to focus more on the story and develop our scripts."

The content of the sketches includes a spin-off of MTV's "The Real World" and a story about an old man scared of crickets.

Nguyen said although the shows aren't all blood and gore, audiences should find them scary.

"It's sort of like the 'Blair Witch Project,'" he said. "There's not a lot of

blood, but you are still scared. It is just this fear that you get in the back of your mind. We rely more on that than on the physical or what's on stage."

Nguyen is in three of the sketches in the show.

One of them, called "Stepping on Van Gogh's Ear," is an absurdist take on Halloween.

"It's a play inside a play," Nguyen said. "This skit is geared more toward people who are experienced in theater and those who are aware of absurdist theater."

Two of the skits in the show, which is directed by Rob Baker, Ben Birkholtz, Christa Miller and Bryan Poole, are spin-offs of real shows.

"The Real Underworld" is a take on MTV's "The Real World," but instead of people living together, ghouls and monsters live together.

Another skit, "The Newly Dead Game," is a take on "The Newlywed Game." In this skit, the devil is the host, and three couples who have died gruesomely are the contestants. The Bitners were killed by sharks, the Burns were killed in an explosion and the Limbs lost all of their extremities.

Nguyen said the scripts being used

Theater Preview

The Facts

What: Shelter Skelter 4 - Annual Halloween Show
Where: 3225 1/2 California St., Omaha
When: Oct. 15 - 17, 21 - 24, 27 - 31, all shows at 8 p.m. except Sunday at 7 p.m.
Cost: Students \$8
 Adults \$10
The Skinny: Show has little blood but is very spooky.

this year were chosen by him and four other people.

"We received about 45 submissions," he said. "We all read the scripts and then figured out which ones would work."

Each of the skits lasts between five to 15 minutes, and the entire show runs about an hour and a half.

Because this is one of the favorite shows of the Shelterbelt's season, tickets are going fast.

"This show is our biggest draw of the season," Nguyen said. "Our October 16th show sold out about two months ago."

For reservations and tickets, call the Shelterbelt at (402) 341-2757 or go to www.shelterbelt.org.

Doors for the show will open about a half hour before showtime.

Oprah latest celebrity to be touted as candidate

CHICAGO (AP) - She's a multimillionaire talk-show host, actress and - most recently - college professor. Now some Reform Party members are talking about President Oprah Winfrey.

Party members from Minnesota have created a Web site to draft Winfrey for the 2000 presidential race.

"It is Jesse Ventura times 10" said Paul Larsen, chairman of the draft committee and a party leader from suburban Minneapolis. "She's got a thousand times as much money, 100

times the name recognition. She has a sterling reputation for honesty."

The queen of talk is not interested, a spokeswoman said.

But Larsen said he was not giving up and would ask Ventura, Minnesota's governor and the nation's highest elected Reform Party official, to help persuade her to run.

Ventura spokesman Doug Friedline said the whole situation "has gotten kind of weird."

"It's almost like we have celebrity-itis in the Reform Party."

Iowa police chief seeks Phish ban

AMES, Iowa (AP) - As far as the chief of police is concerned, Phish fans are welcome to stay away from Ames - forever.

Chief Dennis Ballantine said Monday the city jail was full of Phishheads, the devoted followers of the music group, since the band's concert at Iowa State University on Friday night.

"If they never come back, it will be too soon," he said.

Ballantine said the lawlessness and drug use outside the concert was so appalling that he will ask the university to ban Phish from campus.

Sheriff's deputies, police and campus officers say they arrested 26 fans, most on drug possession charges.

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