



Courtesy: Photo

## The Poster Children make return visit to Duffy's Tavern

Story by  
Jason Hardy

The concept of a poster child is, for the most part, to epitomize a certain cause or point requiring social awareness.

That being said, Poster Children is a perfect name for the Champaign, Ill., group that epitomizes big and edgy indie rock done well.

That and "Poster Children" fits better on T-shirts than "big and edgy indie rock done well."

Nevertheless, for the past 13 years the group has made a name for itself by doing things its own way, breaking down musical ideologies and creating its own brand of "Poster-Rock." The Poster Children is currently on tour in support of its latest album, "DDD," and will make a stop this Sunday at Duffy's Tavern, 1412 O St.

"DDD" marks the group's seventh album and comes as another testament to the Poster Children's perfectionist tendencies and musical independence. The group recorded and produced "DDD" as well as its previous album, "New World Record," and also has recorded the music video for the album's first single, "This Town Needs a Fire."

With this much dedication, it is no strange feat that the band has been able to tour and play together for so long.

In a phone interview April 11, Rose Marshack, the group's bassist and backup vocalist, who has been sick for a good portion of this latest tour, talked about the nuts and bolts of being in a band known for energetic live performances.

"I used to be worried that 'I'm sick today' or 'my leg hurts' or something, but once on stage, something inside of us clicks, and we become these crazed, rock-'n'-roll, screaming people," she said. "It's pain and joy all rolled into one. I think we know how to focus our energy like that. In Asian philosophy people talk about power and chi, and I think unknowingly we know how to focus whatever energy we have available to us."

*"The more self-contained this unit can be the happier we are, because we're control freaks."*

Rose Marshack  
bassist and backup vocalist

"It's a joy to be able to go out and drive around the country, meet different people and second friends," she said. "Every night we get to perform and play music and make people happy, and it's

wonderful."

For Marshack and the rest of the Poster Children, their newly established creative independence, which they've been fostering for years, makes touring in support of a record they recorded and produced themselves extra sweet. She said they were all very proud of "DDD," and thus far the album has been embraced by fans.

"The best part now is that we really, really know we can do this ourselves," she said. "We totally don't need any help at all. The more self-contained this unit can be the happier we are, because we're control freaks."

The end result of the group's self-supporting dynamic is a lasting indie-rock status. Having formed in 1987, the Poster Children has survived a portion of the '80s and the '90s, and is now going strong into the year 2000.

"It's cool. We're really proud of that," Marshack said. "A couple of days ago some guys said, 'You guys remind me of an '80s band,' and I said, 'That's because we are an '80s band.'"

The group played last year on Mothers Day at Knickerbockers, Ninth and O streets, but hasn't played Duffy's Tavern for almost six years. Of course, had it been up to Duffy's concert booker Andy Fairbairn, the group would have been back long ago.

"I've been trying to bring them back ever since I started to do this," he said. "They finally wanted to come back, and we're happy because they're an incredible rock 'n' roll band."

He said he wasn't the only one who held those sentiments, as Poster Children shows generally do very well in Lincoln.

"They're one of those bands that people go 'wow' whenever they play here," he said. "I don't have people who ask, 'Who are they?'"

## Festival lets audience voice opinions of plays

■ Staged readings allow playwrights chance to hear critiques from viewers.

By Josh Nichols

Staff writer

Every famous play, movie, song and book was at one point a piece of art in the making.

Even the rough drafts from the most renowned playwrights, such as Shakespeare, probably had to be polished and improved.

Often times, an outside opinion can help in the improvements, because even if it's wonderful, another reader or onlooker might not think it is.

That is the purpose of Theatrix's season-ending presentation of the "Festival of New Plays," by Nebraska New Playwrights.

The "Festival of New Plays" is put on to present new, unproduced works by local playwrights to the public.

A series of six staged readings will be done Thursday, Friday and Saturday

nights in the Temple Building's Studio Theatre on 12th and R streets.

After each of the staged readings, two each night, there will be an informal response session that will give the playwrights an opportunity to receive feedback from the audience.

These presentations give attention to the base element of theater — the writing and rewriting of the original scripts.

Tice Miller, professor of theater arts and dance, said these readings give attention to works in progress and

help writers decide what they need to do, and what they might want to do, with their scripts.

Miller directed the play "Sweet Tea & Spirits," which is one of the plays being staged this weekend.

Written by Betty Buller Whitehead, "Sweet Tea & Spirits" is about a family who are presented with the uncomfortable, awkward situation of their aging father's marrying another woman.

Please see **PLAYWRIGHTS** on 11

**PREVIEW** Festival of New Plays by Nebraska New Playwrights

**WHERE:** UNL's Studio Theatre, 12th and R Streets in the Temple Building  
**WHEN:** April 20 - 22 at 7 p.m.

**COST:** free  
**THE SKINNY:** Anyone can see and contribute to new, undiscovered plays.