

# Lover needs more passion

**The Lover**  
Nexus Theatre  
though April 8

review by Teresa Pires

"Is your lover coming today?" Richard asks his wife Sarah as he gets ready for a day at the office. "Will he be staying long?" he continues.

Richard (John B. Lowe) and Sarah (Julie Bond) have a bizarre, albeit convenient arrangement in their marriage: Richard spends his afternoons with his whore, "a quick cup of cocoa," while Julie entertains her lover at tea time (to be specific, she entertains him under the tea table) in her husband's home.

Although they do not agree on who was the first to be unfaithful, both Richard and Sarah initially took their respective lovers in an attempt to enliven their passionless, drab marriage.

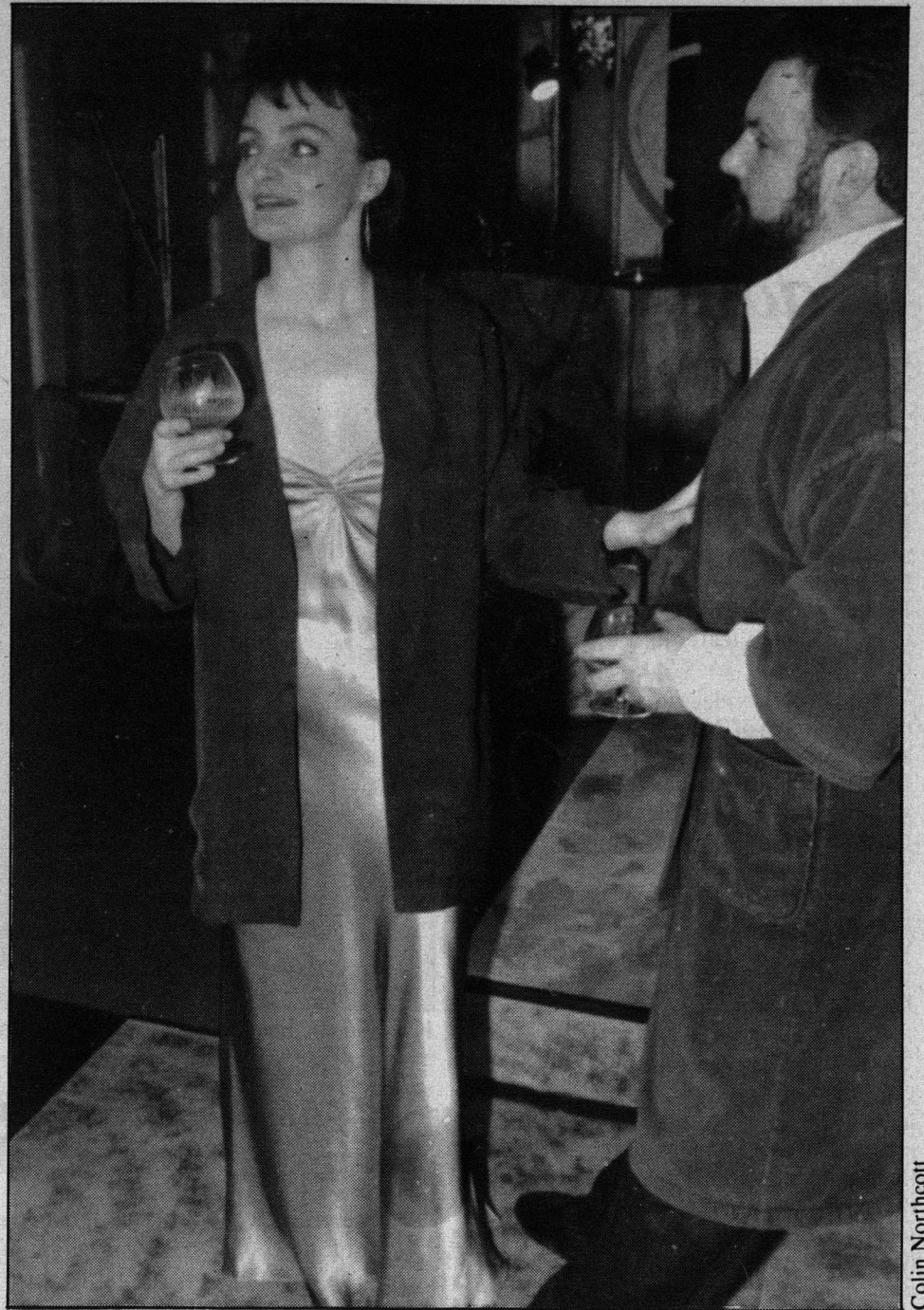
"Things are beautifully balanced," explains Julie, as she and Richard coldly discuss each other's lovers with what they call "objective curiosity." Richard explains that the whore functions simply as someone who either pleases or displeases; for dignity and sensibility he has his marriage.

Yet things are not beautifully balanced: Sarah's lover finally feels guilty after making love to another man's wife for years and Richard is dissatisfied with his

whore because she is too bony. As their arrangement crumbles, Sarah and Richard attempt to remain reserved and detached but the hostility that both feel threatens to overcome the couple.

At times humorous, at times tense, and at all times fascinating, *The Lover* has the potential to be a highly successful production. But something just doesn't work. The problem lies (no pun intended) with Julie Bond and John B. Lowe, although there is little to fault in their insightful portrayals of Sarah and Richard. However, there is a problem in their relationship to each other — there are no fireworks between the couple. Of course, that is appropriate when they are playing the reserved, unconcerned couple but when they are in the midst of a potentially sensuous scene, more is expected. Yet, there is nothing. Sure, the words are there, the action is there but the feeling and the intensity are unfortunately missing (with one qualification: Lowe's delivery of the last line in the play was like a physical blow, hitting the audience).

What does work marvelously is the score by composer David Rimmer. The mysterious, chilling notes are more provoking than the sexual exploits that they are supposed to complement. Also noteworthy is the eerie effect of the illuminated aquarium on the darkened set. Both the music and the lighting create a tension that enhances much of the action in the play.



Colin Northcott

Julie Bond and John B. Lowe in Nexus Theatre's production of *The Lover*: their passion belongs to their extramarital lovers.

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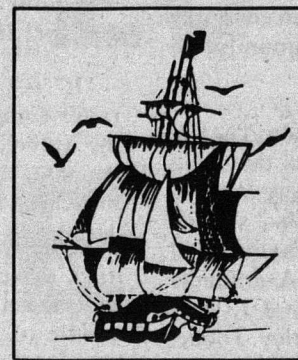
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