

Entertainment

Love, trust in a dockside bar

The Sea Horse
Mignonne Productions
Rice Theatre
til October 26

by Elaine Ostry

Take a break from mid-term madness, and get some culture into your soul. Here's a short, two-act, two character play to take your mind off school and make you think about what's really important.

The Sea Horse by Edward J. Moore is a play about two lovers: Gertie and Harry. Gertie is the 300 pound tough lady, owner of the dockside bar. Harry is the sailor who wants to marry her; an odd couple.

Gertie resists Harry's proposal of marriage. Harry tries to understand why. He tries to understand her. The saying "Lovers are biographers" suits Harry. He realizes that, after a year of being her lover, he doesn't know much about Gertie: "You never tell me nothing," he says.

Harry encounters the problem of miscommunication. Alone, he says, "Why can't I really talk to you — not laughing or joking — but really talk?"

They certainly can joke. The play seems to seesaw from humour to anger and sorrow. The humorous scenes are hilarious — particularly when Harry seduces his tote bag. The build-up to the humour is skillfully managed. However, the shifts from humour to anger are not as smooth. And the first physical fight between the two is downright unconvincing.

There is a good balance between the two actors, Larry Reese and Laura Thaw. They work together well. They react to each other spontaneously, naturally. They communicate through looks and silences effectively.

But it is Larry Reese as Harry who gives life to the show. His love for Gertie is utterly convincing. He is always in earnest. You sympathize with Harry. His love, which is so trusting, and his eagerness to realize his dreams endears him to you. His frustration over Gertie is perfectly controlled.

Gertie is a difficult role. Laura Thaw plays it



Larry Reese and Laura Thaw: examining the important aspect of a relationship: the need for communication and trust

photo Alex Miller

adequately. She is very good in the humorous scenes, but her anger and fear is not quite convincing. Her toughness is closer to sulky irritation. Towards the end of the play, you do sympathize with her more, when she recalls painful memories. But on the whole, Thaw needs more energy, particularly vocal energy. She lacks the touch of desperation her character needs.

The small Rice theatre is perfect for this intimate play. The set is interesting, but too

clean and bright to make an authentic dockside dive. The sound effects of wind and rain sound more like air conditioning. And the stuffed animals simply don't belong in a sailor's haunt.

The play is, however, satisfying. It centres on important aspects of a relationship: the need for communication and trust. Gertie has built a physical defence of fat, and a mental defence of toughness to protect herself. (She is jealous of other, prettier women, barring them from the *Sea Horse*: "No one gets through the door without balls.")

Gertie wants respect — but needs love. She is afraid of love, of revealing herself. Harry senses this and tries to get her to admit

that she loves him, which she refuses to do. You feel Harry's despair as she insists on misunderstanding him — what's a man to do?

Gertie does confide in Harry. His efforts are not totally lost. She has trusted him, by telling him about her past — yet her last words are, "I don't trust you." Harry replies: "You will."

Thus the play ends in speculation. By then you care about the characters. You cannot help but hope that Harry's love will be able to break down the defences Gertie built up to protect herself, that have only hurt her in the long run.

The Sea Horse runs nightly at the Rice Theatre until October 26.

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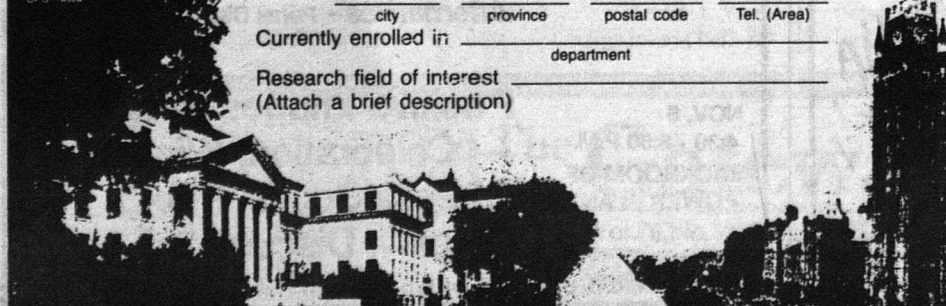
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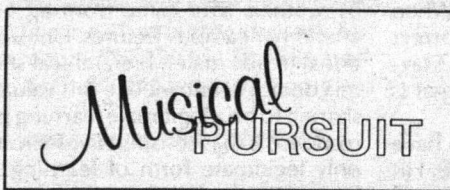
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No more Dolly Parton

The no theme theme



by Don Teplyske

A really nice guy on crutches is last week's Musical Pursuit winner. He correctly answered all nine of the questions dealing with His Jerseyness, Bruce Springsteen. Unfortunately, Mr. Crutches didn't put his name on the entry. So, will you drop by *The Gateway* office and pick up your Auracle Records token. I know who you are — no imposters, please.

Grant Robinson decided that I didn't want to ask several Dolly Parton questions and quickly identified her as the Continual Pursuit mystery artist. Grant receives a five dollar record token from Auracle Records (10808-82 Ave) which can be picked up at *The Gateway* office Room 282, SUB. This week's column has no theme, which in itself is a theme. Also, a new Continual Pursuit begins. All entries must be in by Friday and can be left at *The Gateway* office.

Feature Topic: There Isn't One

1. In Walt Disney's movie *The Monkey's Uncle* what band performs the title song with Annette Funicello?
2. Which former member of Rockpile, and producer of Elvis' best albums, recorded "Born A Woman", "Roller's Theme" and

"Time Wounds All Heels"?

3. What Bob Dylan song begins "Pistol shots ring out in the barroom night/Enter Betty Valentine from the end of the hall/She sees the bartender in a pool of blood/cries out 'My God, they've killed 'em all' as it tells the story of Rueban Carter?"

4. Who was Thin Lizzy's bass player/lead singer?

5. "After the Fire", Roger Daltrey's brand new single, is written by who?

6. According to Sweet, what wouldn't Little Willy do?

7. What guitar player's 'best of' album is called *Ready, Spedding, Go?*

8. What country music legend recorded under the pseudonym Luke the Drifter?

9. Which Beach Boys song begins: "I... I love the colorful clothes she wears and the way the sunlight plays upon her hair"?

The Continual Pursuit

Clue #1 — Their first recording band included Steve Buck and John Baker.

Last Week's Answers

1. Bruce Frederick Springsteen 2. Bruce once co-headlined with Bob Marley and the Wailers 3. Manfred Mann's "Blinded By The Light" went all the way to number one 4. "Wreck on the Highway" 5. "Jersey Girl" is the only live b-side 6. *The Wild, the Innocent and the E Street Shuffle* is the only album without a single ("Atlantic City" off *Nebraska* was released as a 45 in the UK) 7. Clarence Clemons and the Red Bank Rockers 8. Danny Federici 9. "Hungry Heart"