



Hostage Symphony is grinding it out on the local scene

by Tricia Romano

Hostage Symphony was about to go on stage to play to their largest audience yet. UNLV student, guitarist Scott Beare and lead singer Matt Chernoff showed no signs of nervousness.

After playing the local circuit for two years, the

concert was an early sign of the band's hard work and persistence. Tapes, T-shirts and programs all but sold out in the first 15 minutes of the benefit show given at Green Valley High School, not to mention that the place was packed with 500 fans.

Beare dispelled all notions of stage fright. "The

band is ready," he said with confidence. So much for pre-show jitters.

Hostage Symphony saw its first beginnings in late 1988, when Chernoff and keyboardists Tyler Nelson and Jarrid Mendelson, a sophomore engineering major at UNLV hooked up to form Unspoken Words. The

early group was similar to the band's current sound, but nevertheless, they broke up after a year.

"We played out of a little garage and put up a carpet. It was really exciting. But after about a year of being together, we realized we had to disperse because we were young and going nowhere," said Chernoff.

Less than six months later, the trio reunited with a new drummer, Shaun Flannery, and the original guitarist, Pat Palmer. Palmer was later replaced by Beare in January 1990, when the current lineup was solidified.

Things didn't start happening for the band immediately. Their first gig at Las Vegas High School was a disaster.

"As the curtains opened, the aisles were filled with people leaving and we had three people run up to the stage that were our friends," Mendelson recalled.

That catastrophe aside, they finally got the ball

Opus concludes eighth season in style

by Tamia L. Dow

Opus Dance Ensemble triumphantly performed their fall concerts Oct. 13 and 20. The ensemble featured dancers from a number of Las Vegas strip shows reflecting a variety of dance styles ranging from classical to jazz.

Opus was the brain child of McGarry Caven, a former UNLV teacher and Jodi Warman. Eight years ago Caven and Warman, with the support of numerous acquaintances, recruited local dancers and formed the Opus Dance Ensemble.

The ensemble's choreographer was William Martin-Viscount. Spot-lighted dancers were Pamela Langevin, Tara Foy and Michael Ashton.

Langevin was featured as a cancan girl and a rodeo dancer. She currently performs in "Enter The Night" at the Stardust Hotel. Tara Foy was featured in the portion of the show called "Suite West" and "Time Piece." Michael Ashton, an ice skating instructor at the Santa Fe

Hotel, superbly portrayed a man who was a prisoner of his own desire in "Suite West" with music by the Eagles, "Hotel California."

UNLV was represented in the performance by Dolly Ridderplaat a dance teacher at UNLV and Natalie Fredericks, a dance major at UNLV.

The music was excellent and the choreography moving. A beautiful story was relayed through dance. The show was performed in two acts, featuring five different scenes.

In displaying the diversity of this dance company, there was a rodeo scene which featured a western ballet style and a cabaret ambiance placed in the mid-1900s, featuring the music of Billie Holiday.

Timeless ballet was exhibited in the scenes titled "Timepiece," which tells the story of a dancer who, near the end of her career, reaches out to her childhood dream and also in "Rossini Pas de Trois." The most easily identifiable

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The members of Hostage Symphony from right to left: Scott Beare, Matt Chernoff, Shaun Flannery, Tyler Nelson and Jarrid Mendelson.

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'Dogfight' is a tooth-and-nail scrap for dignity

by Daniel W. Duffy

Dogfight is a nostalgic period piece, set in the 1960s, about a group of marines who hold a competition to see who can bring the ugliest date to a party, thus the contest title, "dogfight."

River Phoenix (*Stand By Me*, *My Own Private Idaho*) puts in his finest effort to date as Cpl. Eddie Birdlace who not-so-sweet-talks a unsuspecting waitress Rose (Lili Taylor) into going to the party. The compelling story examines the cold-hearted nature of the dogfight and the unexpected twists that follow.

This film is basically about two young people who come together in one night and learn a lot about themselves and about life

in general. There are some powerful and real emotions at play in this film and that is what makes it so meaningful. So many films dwell in a fantasy world, but this movie deals with real lives and gut-level

MOVIE REVIEW

Dogfight (★★★ 1/2)

Starring River Phoenix, Lili Taylor.
Directed by Nancy Savoca.

feelings. Birdlace's aberrant manner and Rose's bold naivete combine to form a unique relationship that is awkward, yet tender. It is the irony of beatnik meets military man and how they might not be as dissimilar as they think.

Bohemian San Francisco is wonderfully brought to life with the sights and sounds of the 1960s with a backbone soundtrack of legendary folk music with artists like Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie. Director Nancy Savoca (*True Love*) captures this unusual love story in masterful form.



River Phoenix and Lili Taylor form an unusual pair in *Dogfight*.