

Movie mixes pain and pleasure

By GUHA SHANKAR

Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip is a unique experience which mixes pain and pleasure in equal doses. Facial muscles take a beating from laughing to the point of exhaustion. Then Pryor abruptly tosses in a sobering thought in the middle of howlingly funny anecdotes forcing the audience to confront the reality behind the joke.

Few people have the courage to face their shortcomings, and fewer still have the heart to analyze their own mistakes for the benefit of strangers. In this respect, the one-man concert film from one of the most original and startling performers of our time gives as honest and candid an effort as the viewer is likely to see.

Sunset Strip is nothing less than a public confession, laced with explicit language and raw, street dialogue, which are Pryor's trademarks.

Even though Sunset Strip is a concert film, it contains enough drama and tension to rival the best inventions of Hollywood.

Pryor is an actor of some skill. He uses his body, his voice and facial expressions to animate objects and imitate animals. A story about a trip to Africa includes the following observations about animals in the wild. A lion addresses a tourist and says: "Yeah, get your butt out of that car, and bring that camera with ya. I'm gonna eat all that s---."

And according to Pryor, buzzards have discovered an alternative to flying. "They dove up in a truck talkin' about 'What it is?'"

But the best sequence concerns his addiction to cocaine and his long, agonizing recovery from the near-fatal burning. It is Pryor at his most introspective and at his best. It closely parallels the monologue from his previous concert film in which he re-enacted his heart-attack, another instance in which he came close to dying. To admit that he was a cocaine junkie required much courage, but Pryor is up to the task. His confession reveals a new-found maturity and confidence born of near tragedy. It's the same old Pryor but better.


Diving

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than academic prestige to draw divers here. Ground breaking for the new Student Activities Center, which is to include a pool, is scheduled for this spring. The structure will take 26 months to complete if all goes well.

In the new pool, the divers will not have to compete with swimming

classes or the intramural department, and the pool will be a minimum of 17 feet deep. Unfortunately, Perfater, a freshman, will be the only current Carolina diver to enjoy the benefits of this new facility.

"Give us a few years and we should be making it to nationals," Dalrymple said. "We'll have no excuse not to." 

Tracy Young is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.



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