

# Off Broad Street Players Pack Assembly Hall with "A Convict Soul"

Kristine Johnson

A & E writer

NCSSM's drama club, The Off Broad Street Players, on November 16 and 17 presented a collection of short plays, excerpts of larger works, and monologues. The impressive production, which was student cast and directed, revealed much dramatic talent and hard work.

The performance, entitled "A Convict Soul", provided the audience an opportunity to escape from self-imposed spiritual restrictions and allow its freed spirit to dance in the humor and compassion of the various pieces.

Among these, three were most memorable, entertaining, and endearing. In *Lysis-*

*trata* by Aristophanes, Amber Radachovsky amused the audience as the clever *Lysis-trata*, a Greek woman endeavoring to persuade her female comrades to "go without sex altogether" in order to stop the battles which were keeping their husbands away from home.

*Afternoon*, by John Guare, illustrated one woman's search for a soul mate and the humorous exaggeration of the search's consequences. Dave Hamilton and Megan Jackson enacted the relationship between a young woman and a married man, traumatized by his forceful wife. Jackson as the tender "She" and Hamilton the disturbed "He" charismatically played "kindred" spirits willing to grasp their opportunity for love

despite the risks involved.

The Off Broad Street Players also deserve praise for their marvelous finale - *Search For Signs of Life*. Teresa Lambe and Brian Sauls superbly portrayed a bickering elderly couple who use chocolate milk moustaches as the link to their rebellious teenage granddaughter, played by Alexandra Rhetts. Lambe and Sauls accurately depicted the amnesia of old age and the magical discovery of beauty in a common human experience.

Congratulations to the drama club for giving a wonderful present of humor, compassion, and escape to the NCSSM community. We anxiously await their next contribution to the human experience.

# Hammer Gives Pounding Performance

Holly Stallings

A & E writer

"It was great!" exclaimed Julie Drigot when I first asked her about the M.C. Hammer concert. Later that evening, she came in my room to let me in on all the juicy details. She heard about the tickets from a friend on campus. When she asked about transportation, she learned that Kelly Lindsay, the RA on 2nd Hill East, was going to take a group of students that Sunday evening. She bought her ticket and marked the days off of her calendar until the day of the concert.

Vogue, opening for Hammer, bounced on stage as the crowd went wild. Vanilla Ice was supposed to open for Hammer, but Julie

said that in the last week she has heard of three different reasons why he did not show. So, we assumed that Vanilla Ice was either on a European tour, sick, or stuck in an airport. Unfortunately, your guess is as good as mine.

Soon after Vogue finished, the lights again went out. Suddenly a huge spotlight captured the stage just in time for an explosion. When the smoke cleared, M.C. Hammer was on stage singing. Julie said that the concert was really exciting. She loved it when he sang such favorites as "Pray." That song was exceptionally special because he brought up a boy in a wheelchair to illustrate the importance of praying. She was also fond of the background singers Special G."

As a matter of fact, one of the background guys sang 'My, My, My'. "He was terrific!" Julie said with a sparkle in her eye. The stage was impressive because it had lights in the shape of a hammer which moved up and down in a pounding motion. Of course, M.C. Hammer sang the popular songs we all expected such as "Have you seen her?", "Pray," and the ever-popular "U Can't Touch This."

Overall the evening was fabulous. Julie was mainly impressed with Hammer's ability to dance and sing so well at the same time. "He did not lip-sinc", Julie was quick to add. Everyone hoped that Hammer would return to "party with Carolina" again soon.

# NCSSM Home to Aspiring Musicians

Kenneth Harrell

A & E writer

Living Colour, M.C. Hammer, INXS, George Michael, and Warrant. These are just a few of the many stars and groups who started out as unheralded local musicians. Just a few years ago they were virtually unknown but, a few lucky breaks have rocketed them success. Here at NCSSM, there are many talented musicians. If you don't believe, just take time to listen to the Chorus, Gospel Choir, or Jazz Band.

Apart from these groups, there are many talented musicians here who may be some of tomorrow's top stars. Recently, I interviewed some of these talents. I asked them all about how they got interested in music. Guitarist Taylor Hinshaw and drummer Jann Foushee both became interested through the efforts of their parents. Hinshaw had early training singing in his local boy's choir while Foushee was encouraged by her mother to take piano lessons. Both keyboardist Matt Welsh and guitarist Steve Pesca-

tore became interested in becoming musicians by trying to imitate their favorite stars.

Hinshaw and Foushee are two of the most talented musicians that I have ever heard. Together with bassist Brian Anderson, they formed the awesome trio that played at the Dangerous Math assembly. Some of the most innovative music that I have heard comes from the guitar of Pete Carrubba and the sampling of Matt Welsh. Both like to experiment with interesting sounds. Carrubba's entertaining work bor-



## Queensrÿche - *Empire*

The hard rock band Queensrÿche is out with a new album entitled *Empire* which seems to be somewhat of a change from their past records. It blends both powerful rock music with strong bass from guitar player Eddie Jackson with ballads that are very unique for a hard rock band. These ballads lack the mindless lyrics and monotonous acoustic guitar playing that can so often be found on these bands' albums today. The album as a whole contains a wonderful set of lyrics and blends them well into their impressive style of music.

The album begins with a great rock song entitled "Best I Can" which brings together great guitar and keyboard backups for Geoff Tate's good lead vocals. However, the best songs come later on in the album with the powerful title track, "Empire", and two excellent ballads called "Silent Lucidity" and "Anybody Listening?". These songs as well as the others on the album have excellent lyrics concerning the band's point of view on corruption in America today and how together we can make it through a little bit at a time. The sometimes eerie mood created by Queensrÿche's music gives an added punch to an already top notch music collection.

Queensrÿche's *Empire* has something to offer to everyone but may seem somewhat redundant and boring for those who don't find much interest in harder rock music. The album still is quite excellent and is worth a listen if at all possible. For these reasons, *Empire* commands an A- for this month.

ders on the bizarre. Welsh is an expert on special effects made possible by synthesizers. Welsh's peculiar sounds were introduced to the general community in collaboration with keyboardist Jan Borgenson during the Dangerous Math assembly.

All of these unsung musicians are versatile on their instruments and like to branch into many different styles. Perhaps one day some or all of them will become world renowned superstars. If not, at least we can be certain of one thing—they are all more talented than Milli Vanilli!

*Annmarie Williams  
wishes everyone had the  
strength to find happiness*

*Terrence Whalen  
wants peace*

*Francis Anton  
wishes the NCSSM library owned all  
of the issues of The New York Times  
since it was published in 1854.*

*Joey Sinreich  
wishes for three wishes*

*Kevin Currie  
wishes for peace and for students  
who are ready to learn*