

## Studio Theatre to unleash its Demons



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDIO THEATRE

Teibele, the deserted wife, played by freshman Amy McGaughey, responds to the lure of her demon, who is actually Alchonon, the unemployed scholar. Alchonon is played by freshman Thad Esak.

by Rehab Elzeny  
staff writer

*Teibele and Her Demon* is a passionate, mystical story which takes place in the 1880s. The play is set in Frampol, a small and detached Polish/Jewish village.

The story revolves around Teibele (played by Wendy McGaughey), a very beautiful woman in her early thirties. She is an aguna, a Jewish term for a woman whose husband has deserted her. Because of this, Teibele is left hanging, unable to divorce or remarry. She spends time obsessing over religion, mysticism, and the Jewish folklore about demons and spirits. Alchonon (played by Thad Esak), an unemployed, unfavorable scholar deeply loves Teibele from a distance. Because of the many barriers that keep Teibele from him, he comes to her in darkness, disguised as a demon, and captures her heart and soul. The demon (Alchonon) at the right moment tells her that he must leave her

and orders her to marry Alchonon. Teibele, who is in love with the demon, and not Alchonon, is torn between a deep passion and a realistic guilt.

This is a very superstitious and mysterious play. It tries to capture a completely different world—a dark, alluring, mystical place. Tony Elliot, the Director of the Studio Theatre, describes the play as "very sexy." It has a "more mature subject matter" that he believes students will enjoy. He says he saw a production of this play several years ago and was excited by the mysterious atmosphere in the play. He says, "the world of this play, a world where demons and angels are a part of everyday life, is very far removed from our own, making that world an entirely interesting place to visit for a couple of hours."

*Teibele and Her Demon* will be performed on November 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 at 8:00 p.m., and on November 14 and 21 at 2:30 p.m. Call the box office at x6016 for tickets.



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDIO THEATRE

Menasha, played by second-year student Ed Gabrys, counsels Alchonon, played by Thad Esak during rehearsal of *Teibele and Her Demon*.

## Calling all live music fans

by Katie Przepyszny  
staff writer

So, you like live music, right? The city of Erie is covered with a plethora of places that host live shows, and they all seem to be centered around the bar scene. Well, this doesn't help us "underagers" much. Realizing this, the area's own Mr. and Mrs. David and Diane Nieratko decided to make a change. In their innovative spirit, they have presented us with Forward Hall.

The Nieratkos are also the owners of Grasshoppers, located at 2518 Peach Street in downtown Erie. They chose the same block to be the home of Forward Hall, located just a few doors down at 2502 Peach.

Grasshoppers has been an up and running business for the past 7 years, selling a variety of items including clothing, jewelry, purses, blankets, oils, incense, beads, stickers, and post-

ers. Forward Hall opened its doors just one year ago. The idea to open the Hall came from Erie's need to give kids under 21 a place to go to enjoy live music, an experience the Nieratkos could sympathize with.

Forward Hall typically hosts one show a weekend. Besides the shows the Nieratkos choose to book, they often rent out the Hall to people interested in other music scenes. This explains the variety of events, such as hard core shows, that also take place at the club.

New to the club is a studio that can be rented out. This is an opportunity for local bands, or anyone who wishes, to record their music. Perhaps even more exciting than this, is the advantage the studio now has to record bands that perform there. Now, not only can Grasshopper sell the records of bands that play at the Hall, but also live CD releases of actual shows.

The atmosphere of the Hall is dimly lit and comfortable. You can grab a seat at a table, make yourself at home on a couch, or sip some refreshments at the coffee bar. But for those of you who may be less reserved and ready for some action, there is always space on the dance floor.

Forward Hall has an all-star line up ready to play this season. But to start off, the next schedule of shows is one that you won't want to miss. Forward Hall's one-year anniversary concert takes place this Saturday, November 6. Come and celebrate the event with Recipe and Jiggle the Handle, a four-piece jam band. And be sure to check out the Handle's bass player. It's none other than Chris Q of the band Clambake.

Other upcoming shows at Forward Hall include: November 13: South Catherine's Street Jug Band and The Frog Tree Gorge Band; November 20: Intergalactic Peyote Connection and

Secret Agent Band (both local to Erie); November 26: Hypnotic Clambake; December 4: Schleight; December 10: Donna the Buffalo; December 18: Conehead Buddha (a veteran ska band) and Fulign and Professor Small (local bands). And don't miss this year's New Year's Eve bash on December 31, hosted by local bands The Frog Tree Gorge Band and Intergalactic Peyote Connection.

The standard show price is \$5 and tickets can be purchased at the door. For show times and information on other events that will take place at the Hall, call the Grasshopper Hotline at (814) 454-9545 or the Hall's Information line at (814) 455-8231.

So, next time you are in the mood for the live music you love so much (and don't feel like paying concert ticket prices and traveling out of town just to see the show) come check out Erie's own Forward Hall.

## The Story of Us : life after happily ever after

by Deanna Symoski  
features editor

I feel sorry for Rob Reiner's kids. While most of us were told stories about how Prince Charming slid that glass slipper on Cinderella's foot and together they lived happily ever after, Rob Reiner's kids got his extended version. See, when he tucked them it at night he added his own finishing touches to the fairytale how Prince Charming refused to take responsibility in the marriage and how Cinderella, too tired from working all day, then taking the kids to and from soccer practice, was never in the mood anymore. It made for a pretty questionable bedtime story. And now it makes for a pretty questionable film.

*The Story of Us* reveals firsthand the pain and savagery that accompanies a marriage that's outlasted its novelty. Fifteen years and two kids later, Ben and Katie Jordan (Bruce Willis and Michelle Pfeiffer) are jaded spouses in a loveless marriage. They keep up the charade for the sake of their children, but once the kids are off to summer camp, Katie and Ben retreat to separate locations and spend the rest of the summer deciding whether or not theirs is a love worth saving.

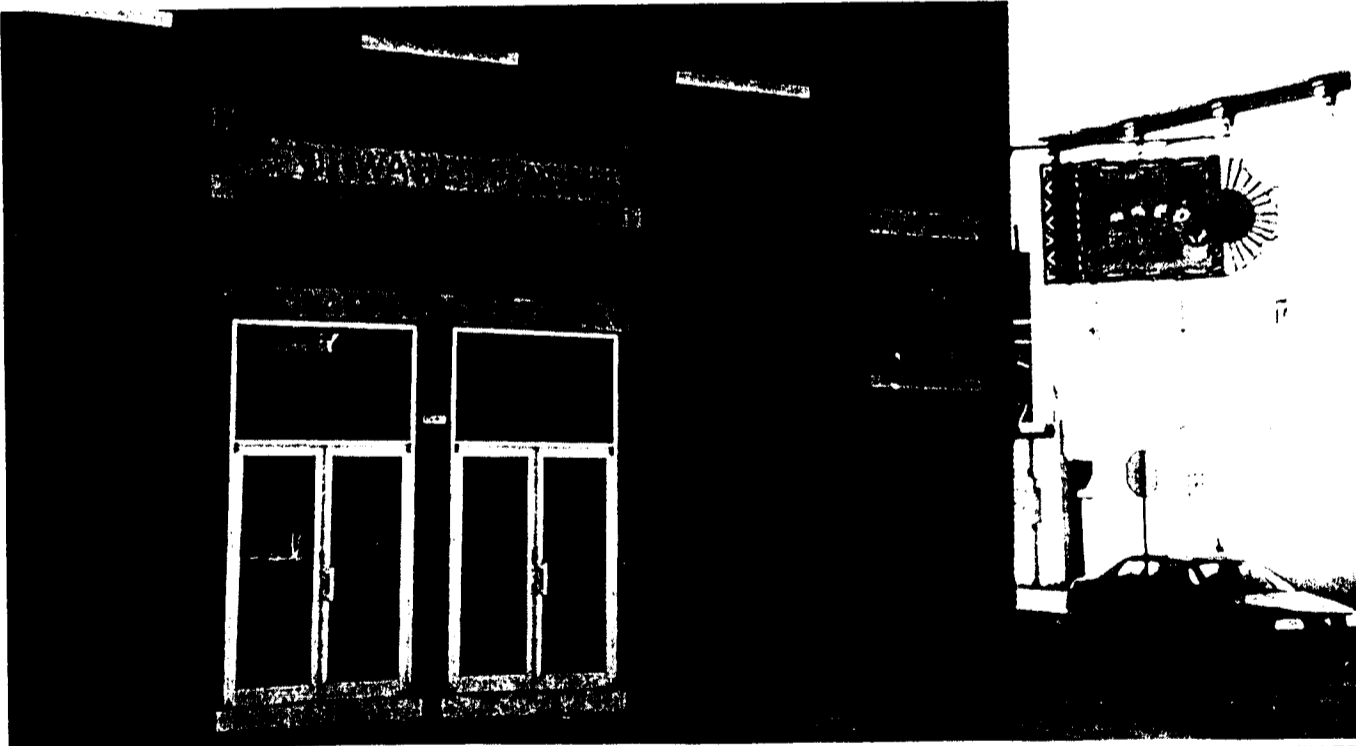
Through a series of flashbacks and out-of-place scenes where Katie and Ben simply tell their story to the camera (is there even such a thing as continuity anymore? You Commu 383 students would get slaughtered for this!), we learn the history of the war-torn lovers. Here, the audience is granted a few fleeting glimpses of the sweet nostalgia of young love. But when the story turns back to the present, we're given a front row seat to all the bitterness money can buy.

Storyline aside, Willis and Pfeiffer are both excellent, but then I guess they

probably should be after all they've been through in real life. Willis' marriage to wife Demi Moore collapsed over a year ago and Pfeiffer has been the silent victim of rumors that husband David E. Kelly, creator of *Ally McBeal*, was having an affair with Calista "I-had-a-skittle-for-lunch" Flockhart. Realizing the turmoil of both actors' personal lives makes this biting account even more disturbing. We tend to wonder if their tears aren't just a little too real.

And in my humble opinion, a late-October release date for this film was a shaky maneuver, what with the holidays coming up. After all, if you wanted to hear snide comments and endless bickering, you could save your money and go home for Thanksgiving break, at least you get a free meal out of it. Instead, Reiner expects you to sit through ninety minutes of reliving what all those years in therapy helped you to forget.

Though the film, at times, looks and sounds like *When Harry Met Sally* (also a Rob Reiner film and the best movie ever!), it certainly is not. It doesn't even come close. Instead, *The Story of Us* is a depressing look at an institution most of us (at least at this age) still regard with bright-eyed optimism. We drop our six bucks on sappy romance flicks because, at least for now, that's still what we aspire to have I don't want to know if Prince Charming is an eternal five-year-old or if Cinderella became an ice princess. I don't even want to know if they manage to somehow get past that and live happily ever after anyway because I don't want to know about the hard times. Maybe I'm in denial, but I'm still idyllic, so quit messin' with my fairytale, Reiner! Disney did 'em right the first time.



Forward Hall, at 2502 Peach Street, provides live music for Erie.

PHOTO BY JEFF MILLER

## Three to Tango...

by Kristin Grudowski  
staff writer

*Three to Tango* is a fun, romantic comedy that contains all the regular assets included in romantic comedies: a guy, a girl, and a problem. It stars Nave Campbell as the beautiful, young artist Amy Post, Dylan McDermott as the money-hungry villain Charles, and Matthew Perry as Oscar Novak, an aspiring architect hoping to work for Charles. With this cast, this movie will certainly make you laugh.

Oscar is a guy who is down on his luck and unknowingly strikes gold when an important potential client, a multi-millionaire Charles, comes to watch over his girlfriend, Amy, who is assumed to be dead. Amy ends up developing a friendship because of the im-

mense amount of time the two spend together. They develop those "more than friends" feelings for each other, but problems soon follow. The love triangle tangles as Oscar and his partner fight over a prospective project. Charles then uses Oscar's responsibility of watching over Amy as blackmail.

The acting was good all around. However, the actors seem to be reprising previous roles. Perry's character here is very similar to the one we see every week on *Friends*. Both Chandler and Oscar possess down to earth personalities. However, Oscar seems to be more socially deprived. This may be because of the troublesome relationships that are piling up behind him or his clumsy nature. Campbell's portrayal of Amy is much like that of Julia on *Party of Five* because of the strong attitude and creativity she dis-

plays. I have never heard of McDermott before this film, but he portrays a convincing villain. He always seems to know when to drop by, interrupting intimate moments between Oscar and Amy.

The entire "Oscar is gay" joke is played up a lot, but it is truly one of the most amusing aspects of the film. I thought another case of mistaken sexuality would get old, but it was just too funny for that to happen.

For hopeless romantics like myself, this movie is easy to relate to and definitely worth seeing. We learn of Amy's past relationships and observe as she stays in a relationship with Charles when we know that she and Oscar would just be great together. She is trying to find love, she just doesn't know where to look. Lesson from this movie: stop looking and let love find you.

## Almy Hall gets jiggy wit' it

by Erin Henninger  
staff writer

On Saturday, October 23rd, Almy Hall Council hosted a semiformal dance for its residents in the Reed Commons.

Students arrived at 9:00 p.m., and festivities lasted until 2:00 a.m. while students were entertained with an array of refreshments and great music. Sparkling confetti, twinkling lights, candles, and ivy gave the Reed Commons a magical look, but these decorations didn't magically appear. After talking to the Almy Hall Council, I found that a lot of hard work and cooperation were required to make such a successful event.

This dance was the sequel to Almy's semiformal last year, and with ticket

sales up, the tradition seems to be catching on.

So why does Almy Hall get to have a semiformal? "Because we decided to," said Almy Hall Council President Theresa Crawford, 03 BIO. According to Crawford, last year's council had some money to spend, and came up with the idea all on their own.

"We wanted to do something special for Almy," says Kristen Gordon, 09 BLAS, Almy Hall Council Secretary. "Our mission is to create unity in the building."

As the residents and their guests got down with their bad selves on the dance floor, it was clear that this dance really did help the students to get to know each other better. Dan Schiesser, the coordinator for Almy and Ohio Hall, said, "it's nice to see

residents get involved outside the classroom, and break it down for the evening."

Crawford said "the music was good, and I had a really fun date." Chris Britt, the D.J. at the dance, seemed to be popular with all of the Almy residents. Jill Forsman, 05 GAS, an RA for Almy, commented with a laugh, "my feet hurt bad."

Almy Hall Council members suggest that other halls who might like to start their own semiformal tradition, talk to Student Activities, Police and Safety, Residence Life, and Housing and Food, all of whom aided the students in creating such a successful evening. Also suggested by Gordon, "was to have fun with it."