

# Spooks --- a hauntingly funny comedy

by Timothy Jones  
The Collegian

The stage is all set to go and all the props are in place. The scene is a typical Polish home, and it's all quiet except for one man going over his opening speech, five women going on and off the stage trying to get ready for the play and a priest who is watching it all.

If you would walk in on all of this, you might get the impression that it's the set for the *Golden Girls*, but it's not. These people are gearing up for the opening of *Spooks, The Haunting of the Skowronski Sisters*.

Richard Boler, popular local humorist who resides in Erie wrote this play based on his real life aunts who live in Erie. He also wrote for *National Lampoon* before trying his hand at plays.

Director Scott McClelland also has praises for the cast and the play itself. He remarks, "Spooks stars five of the best actresses in Erie." He adds, "One of the characters is a Nun with Alzheimer's who spews obscenities."

Alberta Nelson-Gilman, who plays Josie, is a retired professional actress who was Goober's girlfriend on the Andy Griffith Show. She also starred in all the beach movies with Frankie Avalon. Gilman is not the only one who has a famous background.

Bob Dombrowski, The

Narrator in the play, was in *The Marriage of Bette and Boo*. It was a play written by Christopher Durang and directed by Steve Buckwald here at Behrend. McClelland enjoys working with the cast and enjoys the play. He said, "Spooks is funny, extremely funny. *Equus* was a huge success, and *Spooks* will be the same."

*Spooks* is a welcome relief for McClelland, "it's very refreshing to do a comedy, as compared to *Equus* which was very emotional."

The cast works well together. On stage and off, they look like a real family. Each one compliments the other. Linda Gamble, who plays Annie, said, "When in acting, your body is your instrument and you get to know yourselves. You feel exposed, like you're mentally naked." Bobbie Kocher, who plays Irene-Rose adds, "the play depicts what could be real people."

*Spooks* opens on Halloween night (Oct. 31) and that evening there will be a catered Halloween Party. Admission is \$10.00 that night. The Roadhouse Theater is located on 1505 State Street. The play runs through November 24th. Admission is \$7.00 for students and \$5.00 for seniors on Thursdays and Sundays only. The starting time on Thursday, Friday and Saturday is at 8:00 p.m., and on Sundays, at 3:00 p.m.

# Ocean Blue's *Cerulean* Contains only enough to keep you interested

by Sean Dougherty  
The Collegian

Released about two months ago, *Cerulean* by The Ocean Blue has managed to gain recognition on progressive charts, but this is not the sort of release that will earn The Ocean Blue a permanent name in progressive music.

The Ocean Blue is a four man group from Hershey, PA. Like the other major progressive release from Pennsylvania, *Umbrella*, by The Innocence Mission, *Cerulean* lacks a full variation of sounds.

The vocals, done solely by David Schelzel, become boring through repetition. There are few back-up vocals and no female voices. Also, David Schelzel sings neither loud nor soft nor with a lot of feeling. The above combination robs the album of a full range of sound.

The Ocean Blue uses a style of singing over the music. That is, the melody of the vocals and

the melody of the music often don't match (like The Cure). This style works well for The Cure, however The Ocean Blue doesn't use the style quite as effectively.

**Regardless of first impressions, the few excellent songs on this album could be better.**

Many of the songs of *Cerulean* have fresh and new musical sounds. Throughout the album the use of piano, acoustic guitar and synthesizer in their respective arrangements give the music alone an original sound.

The album has its negative and positive qualities. It is saved through some songs and brought down by others.

"Cerulean," the lead single, begins with a duet, an acoustic guitar and piano, and it gradually includes light percussion and bass. In this song, the vocals and the music correspond well. The result is one individual song which has been successful on progressive charts.

"Marigold," another song on this album, is about a man who realizes his girlfriend is the one he wants to marry. The group uses bass guitar, a six-string combined with the varied sounds of a synthesizer and strong percussion to create a fine love song.

The album has a few excellent songs, but the problem is that the not-so-excellent songs sound too much like all the other songs on the album. Regardless of first impressions, the few excellent songs on this album are simply that, but the album could be better. At least for now it is enough to keep you interested in The Ocean Blue.

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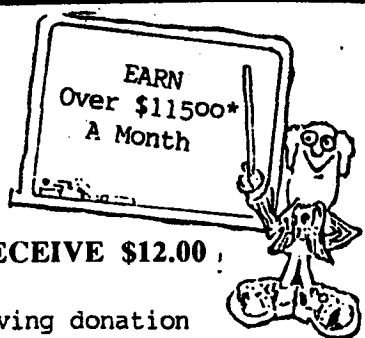
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