

# New Matchbook Players production confusing but worthwhile

*On the Verge or the Geography of Yearning makes the grade*

by Jennifer Toubakaris  
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Frustrated. That's how I felt after leaving *On the Verge*. Let me explain. I wasn't frustrated at the play itself, but at myself. I didn't really understand it. The acting was excellent and it combined drama with many humorous lines, but the

Fanny, played by Ericha Hagenbuch, is the uppity feminist who assures everyone that, "A good stiff petticoat is worth its weight in gold." She serves her part well with sarcastic remarks and an almost obnoxious intelligence.

Terri Evans plays Mary who holds an undying flame for learning and is the understood

naive, but has a quirky mind and offbeat humor.

Throughout their trip, Fanny begins to find strange objects in her basket; one of them being cream cheese, which hasn't been invented yet. Mary finds a button that contains the message, "I Like Ike", and Alex begins to talk in strange phrases, telling Fanny that,

rapping troll who tells the ladies, "This is my bridge, baby, and I'm the Troll. To step on over you gotta pay the toll."

The ladies start out in 1888 and eventually end up in the 1950's at Nicky's Peligrosa Paradise Bar and Grill. Here, Fanny and Alex find their true callings and decide to stay. Fanny becomes engaged to Nicky and Alex decides she wants to write lyrics for "Rock and Roll". Mary wishes them luck and treks on through the unknown to discover CD's, computers, microwaves, and jacuzzis.

These brave, young women had a strong yearning to learn about the future (Do you get the title now?). They realize that, "The future is not annoying," and instead of running from it, they embrace and cherish it.

The language at times was frivolous and difficult to understand, but don't let that discourage you from seeing *On the Verge*.

*On the Verge* makes you think, and when watching the play I felt confused and sometimes lost. Now as I look back on it and write this article, I begin to understand the play. The future isn't planned, it just happens. We tend to analyze everything too much. Fanny, Mary, and Alex were just as confused as I was. Confusion isn't always bad; only when it discourages you from taking chances can it hurt. These women took that chance and everything turned out fine.

You just might leave the theater understanding our motivation for knowledge and gain a positive look for our brightest prospect; the future.



*On the Verge: Terri Evans and Erica Hagenbuch play travelling Victorian women*

language was too sophisticated for a college audience and left me feeling ignorant.

The play begins in 1888 in a land called Terra Incognita. Three Victorian women have embarked on a journey through this strange land to explore the unknown. What they end up finding is something none of them would have expected.

leader of the group. She too agrees with Fanny about the value of a petticoat after telling the audience of how her skirt ballooned out and saved her from drowning in quicksand.

Susan Simmons, who plays Alex, is the last of the trio. This is her premiere at Behrend and it is a good one at that. She comes off as being sweet and

"You're so square."

Glenn McCall plays the jack of many trades in this production; from a cannibal with a German accent to Nicky Paradise, the suave owner of a casino resort. His acting switches from each of these characters as easily as a chameleon's coat changes color. At one point he portrays a



## The Temp

*Only temporarily interesting*

by Sarah Melchiorre  
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What would you do to get ahead? Would you cheat? Would you steal? Would you kill? Or maybe your secretary would. *The Temp* would!

*The Temp* is a psycho-thriller with many twists. The plot is unrealistic, but fun to watch. Tension builds through the whole movie until the end. The ending is a dreadful cop-out. You expect the bad guy...girl to get his/her just dessert in the end-and for it to be exciting, it's not!

Peter Dorns (Timothy Hunton) is an executive at a cookie company who needs a temp after his assistant accidentally chews his hand up in the paper shredder. It's a scene that makes you want to run and hide. The audience knows it's going to happen. The scene cuts

from the assistant's face to the hallway where you hear shrieks of blood curdling pain. It'll give you goose bumps.

Kris Bolin (Lara Flynn Boyle) is hired as Dorns' temp. She quickly moves up in the company to an executive after two of Dorns' co-workers die.

Kris gets away with so much "stuff" it's amazing. Peter Dorns is the only one who sees through her, but he's been dealing with bouts of paranoia, and everyone dismisses his allegations. When Peter is against many others (including Kris) for a promotion, his supervisor calms him by saying "Don't worry, success is like hot air, it rises to the top."

No one in this film will be nominated for an academy award, but they're not that bad either. Some scenes with Timothy Hunton seemed forced.

## Off the Ground Paul McCartney plays it safe with his new pop album

by Vince Smith  
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After such a ground breaking rock and roll record as "Flowers in the Dirt," Paul McCartney has gone back to playing it safe with his new album, "Off the Ground." Unfortunately with his new record, Paul McCartney doesn't try anything new or different. He puts out a pop record. And with pop, well, someone should tell Paulie we've heard it before. It's too safe.

McCartney's biggest problem is its soporificity. While "Off the Ground" does have its moments, ("Hope of Deliverance," the Beatlesque "Get out of my Way") the majority of the album is too sugar-sweet. "Golden Earth Girl" and especially "Looking for Changes", in which McCartney and friends do some harmonizing about animal rights. It made me feel like I'm watching a Saturday afternoon "Afterschool Special" on kids' television network.

McCartney does have a well-produced record. It will probably earn him a Grammy nomination for next year. "Mistress and Maid", written with Elvis Costello stands out as a well arranged musical piece, as does "Winedark Open Sea". But none of the cuts on this album really grab you right away, which says something bad about the writer of "Let em in" and "Hey Jude".

All in all, Paul has put out a great pop album. Unfortunately, McCartney is at his best doing rock and roll, and tends to take more chances when doing so. This in turn makes him more interesting. As for "Off the Ground," well it never gets there. Shame on you, Paul. What's next, another LP with Michael Jackson? Here's a hint, Paul, let Michael do pop, he's good at it. You go back to rocking. Maybe then your album will actually get off the ground!

Lara Flynn Boyle plays the conniving little...wench role to the "T". It's almost amusing to watch her manipulate the rest of the cast.

This movie is one to rent, but not one to pay six dollars to go see.