

## Faithful Shepard

by Douge Martin

*Fool for Love* by Sam Shepard. Directed by Twig Webster. Storefront Theatre.

Sam Shepard is a master of conversational dialogue, and at capturing the way his characters would really speak. Twig Webster's very funny production of *Fool for Love* at Storefront Theatre is faithful to Shepard's naturalness.

*Fool for Love* is an episode out of a very stormy 15 year old love affair between Eddie

*Theatre*

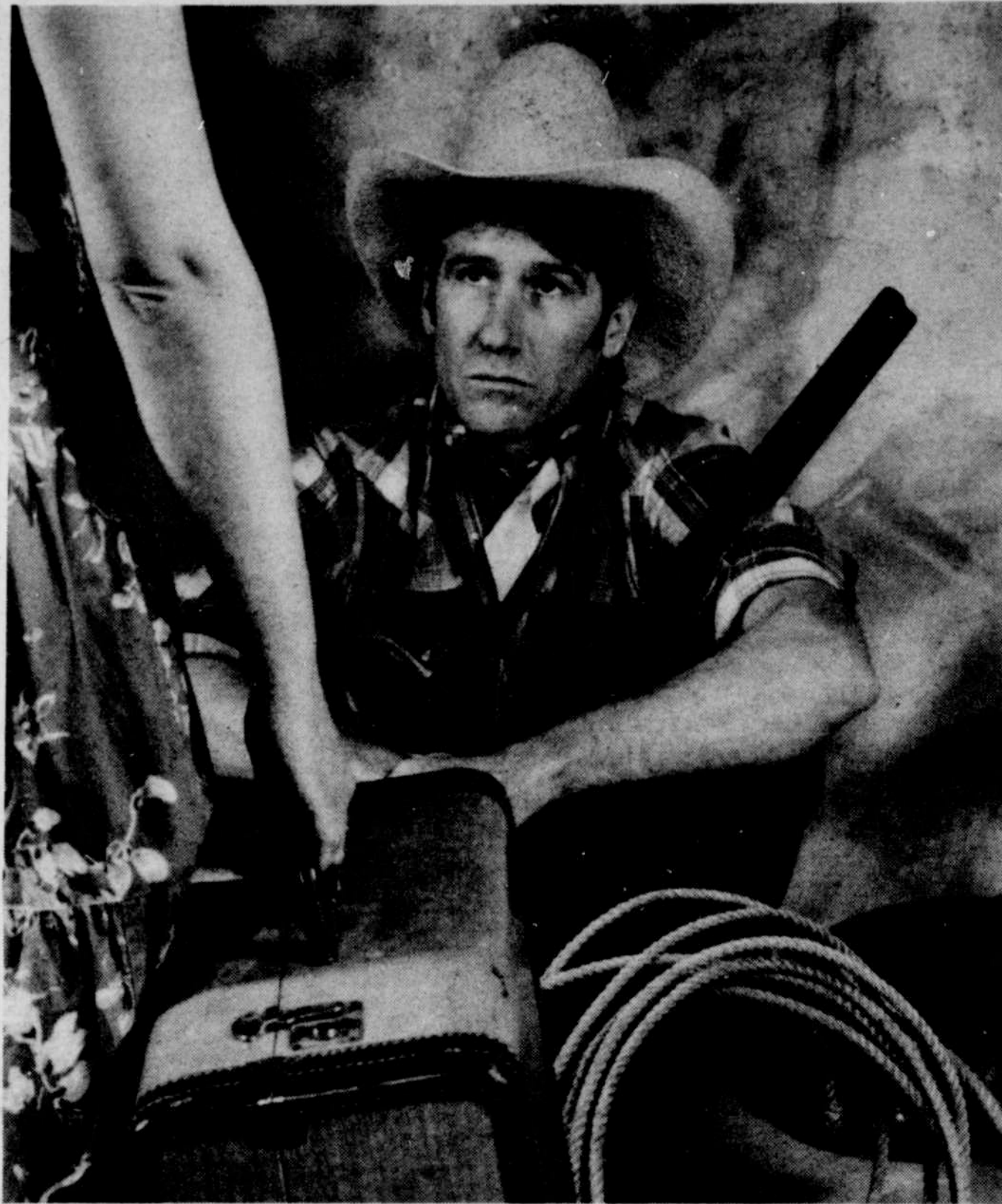
and May (Nick Flynn and Victoria Parker). Theirs is an old story of you can't live with 'em and you can't live without 'em. They are obsessed with each other, and as Flynn and Parker play the obsession very well, the sexual tension between them is constant and palpable.

There are brief interludes (one might call them rest breaks between rounds) provided by the reminiscences of the Old Man, (B. Joe Medley). The Old Man is integral in the story of Eddie and May, and plays a surreal and important part in the action of the play; he interacts with Eddie and May (even though he is not actually present) as a sort of manifestation of their obsession.

Martin, a large and dense possible suitor of May's, admirably played by Gary Brickner-Schulz, provides a point of contention for the lovebirds(?), and an audience for the varying versions of their lives.

The marvellous settings by Henk Pander are replicas of a tacky and surreal desert motel room. The exaggerated angles of walls and floor are good companions to the skewed relations between the characters. Excellent lighting and sound effects were done by Jeff Forbes and Bill Reinhardt; the approaching headlights and sounds of cars were particularly effective.

The actors and Webster deserve special credit for keeping consistent and believable rural western dialects throughout the production. *Fool for Love* is a delight and well worth seeing. It continues through November 15 at Storefront Theatre.



Nick Flynn in *Fool for Love*

## Revenge of the Nerd

*Little Shop of Horrors* by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken. Directed by Greg Tamblyn. Portland Civic Theatre Main Stage.

*Little Shop of Horrors*, by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, is the sort of crazy musical comedy that Portland Civic Theatre does best. Don't expect a message, there is none (except perhaps don't feed people to plants

who talk), but you'll have a lot of fun.

The plot centers on Seymour, the quintessential little nerd, who works in a failing florists' shop on Skid Row, and on a strange plant that appears during a total eclipse of the sun. The plant, which Seymour names Audrey II after the girl of his dreams, brings fame and fortune to the little shop and to Seymour. There is only one catch; it will only eat fresh human blood (or whole bodies, it isn't too particular).

Greg Tamblyn has directed this horticultural *Sweeney Todd* with a fast pace and

great attention to detail, and Paul Douroumis as musical director has kept the music fresh and quick. They have also put together a fine cast.

Randall Stuart as Seymour is a wonderfully energetic little nerd. He is always trying hard, but when he succeeds it is always by mistake. This is the sort of role that Jerry Lewis always tried to play and make endearing, but never succeeded; Stuart has succeeded. The music is a little too low for him in some places, but he manages to speak/sing his way through very well. Playing Audrey, the big girl of Seymour's little dreams, is Margie Boule. She is about a foot taller, with high heels, short trashy clothes, a blonde bouffant, and a vacant, dingy expression. (Does she stare at the doorbell because she thinks it is a kindred spirit?) Boule's big eyes and pouty voice are just right. Sure, it's caricature, but well-done and enjoyable caricature.

For chorus we have Chiffon, Crystal and Ronnette, set of street-wise Andrews Sisters, enthusiastically played by Brenda Phillips, Anise Hall, and Julianna Johnson. Most of the rest of the cast is played very well by Randy Knee, who is a very flexible face and good comic timing.

And, of course, the plant. Audrey II goes from houseplant size to taking up the whole stage. She was constructed with ingenuity by Robin Chilstrom and is manipulated by Christopher Whitten (no mean feat, in itself). And Audrey II's huge maneating mouth is well-coordinated with the voice provided by Michael Holliday.

*Little Shop of Horrors* plays Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 and Sunday at 7:00 through November 22.

## Bernarda's, a house of repression

*The House of Bernarda Alba* by Federico Garcia Lorca. Directed by Micheal Griggs. New Rose Theatre.

The stage is nearly bare. Small benches and hard, straight-backed chairs are the only furnishings, the dingy stucco walls are unadorned, and the women are all dressed in black. This is *The House of Bernarda Alba*, a place of stagnation and repression. Written by Federico Garcia Lorca in the early part of this century, *The House of Bernarda Alba* is a view into the lives of women in Spanish villages, lives which are tightly controlled and

### PEOPLE'S



3029 S.E. 21st  
Portland, Oregon 97202  
(1 block north of Powell Blvd.)  
Tri-Met bus #9  
phone 232-9051

Open 10-8, Monday to Saturday  
12-7, Sunday

## Pastaworks

**Presto!** featuring fresh pastas and an expanded selection of "ready to eat" foods

Call about our exciting schedule of wine classes!

3731 SE Hawthorne  
Portland, Oregon 232-1010



THE  
**MEN'S**  
CENTER

### Counseling Services

- Issues of Gay Men
- Self-Esteem
- Relationship Counseling
- Men's Groups

sliding scale  
235-3433  
2036 S.E. Morrison