

Focus retreat gives women a memorable experience

by Angela Wilson
Feature Editor

The second annual Focus on Women's retreat took place May 4-6 at YMCA Camp Collins.

The weekend was filled with music, love and warmth. Saturday night the group "Motherlode" performed. "Motherlode" also held informal song circles throughout the weekend and lead a workshop "Music in Your Soul."

There were a variety of workshops available for women to attend dealing with many different subjects such as grief, self empowerment, spirituality, sexuality, music, relaxation, body love, relationships, and traveling.

The impact of the weekend on myself is hard to describe. After attending last year's retreat I had the same difficulty in trying to describe the impact of the experience. It helped me come to a greater awareness of myself. Most of all I realized after this weekend that anything is possible and I truly believe that.

Women who participated in the weekend were invited to comment about it, through a "camp journal," and through evaluation forms which were passed out to everyone. Following are some of the reflections, as written in the journal:



"Discovery: A Journey Together" was the theme of Focus on Women's 1990 retreat. At the closing of the retreat each woman was given a card to write their discovery from the weekend on, and then the cards were taped to the "Discovery" board.

"This weekend essentially was a present to myself, and I am very happy, peaceful and content as a result of that gift."

"What a gift you have given us,

and we have given to ourselves and others!"

"To watch the transformation of timid strangers to trusting comrades is magic. Whenever women

gather, a special spirit is present, is nurtured, is shared and we all grow. The women of Motherlode made the weekend ring true for me, for the art of their music vocalizes what is in the hearts of so many of us. Sing out, sing strong, sing on!"

"So many wonderful, talented and funny women! Great weekend, great time."

"Why did it take me so long to discover how fun it would be to get away for a weekend? I loved it - and can hardly wait to do it again."

"A magical thing happens when women get together and share their music, their skills, their friendship and their energy. I'm so glad I got to be part of it!"

"This has been wonderful. I was in some resistance to coming, because I have been so busy and I needed time out. I forgot that the Women's Weekend is 'time out!'"

"This has been... a unique opportunity for women to gather and celebrate life! Where we could honor our similarities - and our differences. Remembering the essence of who we are: spiritual

beings. Finding a safe place to explore our inner call. I embrace this time and all of you - and from this will remember more of who I am."

Women were also asked to fill out an evaluation. One of the questions was "What was the most valuable aspect of the weekend for you?" Following are some replies:

"Being with friendly women in a relaxed, supportive situation - no feeling of rejection or judgement."

"Being heard, being with other women open and willing to share and be honest and outrageous!"

"Not having to think about what was going on back home. Great, great, great!"

"Getting together with other women without having to feel self-conscious about looks, actions, etc. The love!"

"Being among such wonderful, powerful, caring, talented, dynamic women. This weekend was impeccably planned and carried out. You thought of everything, times ten! On a scale of 1 to 10, you get 1,000! Thank you."

'Valmont' intrigue well directed and decadent in style



Actresses Meg Tilly, Annette Bening, and Fairuza Balk are Madame de Gercourt, Marquise de Merteuil, and Cecile de Volanges in Orion Pictures' film Valmont.

Valmont is a familiar story for most viewers. Freely adapted from Choderlos De Laclos' "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," it comes at a time when most viewers have forgotten 1988's multi-award-winning Dangerous Liaisons starring Glenn Close, John Malkovich and Michelle Pfeiffer.

A Reel View
by
Roseann Wentworth

Directed by Milos Forman (Amadeus), Valmont is not the epitome of Dangerous Liaisons as directed by Stephen Frears and Adapted by Christopher Hampton.

Valmont stars Colin Firth, Meg Tilly, and Annette Bening.

Directed by Forman, who in 1984 won an Academy Award for Amadeus. He also directed the award-winning One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and 1981's critically acclaimed Ragtime.

De Laclos' "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" has intrigued people for over two centuries. He finished the play in Paris in 1781. There have been many adaptations in the form of plays and films. Hampton and Jean-Claude Carriere are not the first to have successful adaptation; however, they are the most well known.

Annette Bening plays the widowed "Marquise de Merteuil" for Forman. Bening says about her character, "You may not understand her, but I hope you believe her." Her last film role was in the Great Outdoors with Dan Aykroyd.

Colin Firth portrays "Valmont" in this adaptation. He can currently be seen in Apartment Zero, which is now on video cassette, but is well respected for his performances on the stage.

Meg Tilly plays Madame de Tourvel. Tilly made her film debut in Alan Parker's Fame, and went on to more recognizable roles such as in The Big Chill, Agnes of God, and most recently in Masquerade with Rob Lowe.

Forman is notorious for his outlandish visual style. His costumes and settings are almost over elaborate as found in 1984's Amadeus.

I do believe that if Dangerous Liaisons' cast had worked under the guise of Forman and Carriere, Valmont would have swept the Oscars with more than Frears' version (eight in all).

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