


TEXTURES

CHOREOGRAPHY BY LANE DANCE FACULTY

May 20, 21, 22, 8:00 pm
LCC Main Theatre

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Reunion Reflections

Lord Leebrick offers well-acted *Pavilion*.

Universally, it's one of the foremost anxiety-inducing events in life. What I'm referring to, of course, is the dreaded high school reunion. From the moment the invitation arrives in the mailbox, the angst-O-meter skyrockets. In Lord Leebrick's premiere production of *The Pavilion*, drama and long suppressed memories — good times as well as emotional scars left over from high school injustices — all come into play.

Written by Craig Wright, whose work can be seen in the TV series "Six Feet Under," the production is a smart, funny, and thought-provoking blend of pain, pleasure, and pathos, as well as a measurement of time irretrievable and time remaining.

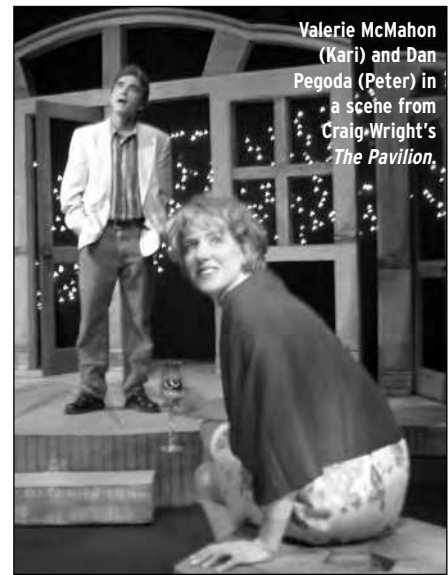
Opening in Pine City, Minn. at a dilapidated dance hall on the edge of a lake, the class of 1984's 20-year reunion is about to commence. From the narrator, we receive a lightning-fast history of the universe — the significant role each of us occupy within it; and how even the seemingly minor choices we make can affect others and permanently alter their universe.

We are also introduced to Peter and Kari, two former high school sweethearts fated to reunite years after their less than amicable parting.

Peter, a psychiatrist returning to his hometown for the first time since leaving for college, views the reunion as an opportunity to rectify a 20-year-old "cosmically stupid" mistake and to perchance rekindle a relationship with Kari. However, Kari isn't the least bit interested in making up. For one thing, she's married, albeit unhappily, and as far as she's concerned, Peter is a closed chapter. As the evening unfolds, a mélange of well-meaning friends advise the couple on a variety of topics; particularly, whether they should get back together or not. Adding to the already bitter-sweet emotions swirling through the night, a gathering fleet of fire trucks awaits outside to burn the old memory filled pavilion to the ground at the stroke of midnight.

In his directorial debut, Bill Hulings has cast three multi-talented individuals. Dan Pagoda and Valerie McMahon are the ill-fated couple, who have terrific onstage chemistry. Pagoda is both comedic and tender as the mixed up and remorseful Peter. He also demonstrates his formidable musical talents during a poignant guitar solo. Likewise, McMahon is splendid as the ill-treated Kari. From righteous anger to moments of maturity and wise introspection, her range of emotions is remarkable.

And finally, playing an actor playing an actor, Jeff Pierce is fantastic and relentlessly entertaining as the narrator, who not only chronicles and provides powerful imagery and insight into the emerging cosmic drama, but seamlessly transitions in and out of an assortment of both male and female roles that embody every conceivable high school stereotype — from the sweet-but-clueless cheerleader, the bitter feminist and the chronic doper to the conflicted chief of police and the world-weary church minister.



Valerie McMahon (Kari) and Dan Pagoda (Peter) in a scene from Craig Wright's *The Pavilion*.

If what you're craving is a night of witty comedy, high drama, and nostalgic '80s tunes, *The Pavilion's* got it all. **EW**

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