On Monday, IUP’s Six O’clock Series, “That ain’t no way to treat a lady,” raised the issue of violence and women’s issues by using performance art in order to get the point across to the audience.

On March 21, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Ohio room of the Hadley Union Building (HUB), Nancy Hulse danced and used performance art to show the seriousness of domestic violence. Nancy Hulse used dance, poetry and music to dramatize the cause and effect of violence against women in the U.S.

Technical director, Joseph Piazzo, introduced the program, wearing a black shirt under a black opened up dress shirt, with blue reading glasses stung around his neck, along with black pants and sneakers. Piazzo started the program by explaining some information on the program and his experience of being on the road with this show for 18 years. Piazzo also touched on some facts about women shelters. He said that there are only 1,900 women’s shelters in the U.S., compared to 3,800 animal shelters.

“People say that there are too many animal shelters.” Piazzo said, “Wish they would say we don’t have enough women shelters.”

After the introduction, Nancy Hulse opened her performance with the song “Behind the wall” by Tracey Chapman. As she performed, an image of a brick wall showed behind her, stating facts about domestic abuse. Hulse, dressed in black, glittery spaghetti strapped dress, with black glittery leggings. She was accessorized with a black and white bow tie and black flower earnings. Hulse told hundreds of audience members how she was in an abusive marriage and some relationships and that this program would show the steps in her relationship

Hulse performs six scenes that show how most abusive relationships play out. First, she and two volunteers from the audience performed to “Brave & Crazy” b Brian Ferry, where she demonstrated how women are forced to choose between their friends and the boyfriend.

Next, she performed to “Slave of Love” by Brian Ferry. In this scene she shows how women give up everything for him, such as their friends, family, career and soul.

Third, was a scene about trying to change him and his ways but in the end the women is the one who changes for him. This scene was performed with music by Berlin called “Torture.”

The fourth scene Hulse’s performance shows that if he has hit you once, he will do it again. In this scene Hulse leaves the abusive relationship realizing that she is in a bad situation and needs to get out before it turns worse. Hulse performs to the song, “I don’t want to cry” by Mariah Carey.

Next, Hulse gives a memorial to the song “The wind cried Mary” by Jimi Hendrix, that shows the brutal reality I violence against abusive relationships. She shows a clip of a movie that shows the reality of an abusive relationship and how badly they usually end. She then lists 1/10 of the women and children kill last year because of domestic abuse.

“All my work is for the women and children that have been killed, beaten and abandoned.” Hulse said, “This memorial is for them.”

Finally, Hulse ended the show with a performance to the song “Let it go” by Luba. The final scene showed the freedom that comes from leaving an abusive relationship. She shows how strong she was when she left her relationship and how she gained back all the things she had lost in her life.

“If I had one wish, I would take back everything I lost.” Hulse said, “And dance into the sunset.”

Audience members at the Six o’clock series were very responsive to Hulse’s performance. Many audience members voiced reactions and asked questions in response of her performance and the video she showed.

“I was surprised to see how she demonstrated the issues of domestic violence.” said Stephanie C. Frederick, 21, Junior, “I learned a lot about the issues in an interesting way.’