



Lou Anne Zacek/Daily Nebraskan

Theatre auditions continue today

By Mona Z. Koppelman

For budding Hamlets and Evitas dreaming of Broadway (or off-Broadway, or even the Winnetoon Community Playhouse and Garage), university theatre may be a stepping stone to theatrical fame.

Auditions for three of four mainstage productions this semester will continue tonight from 7 to 10 p.m. at Howell Theatre in the Temple Building. Tryout time is limited, but interested students may contact Chris Wineman, assistant to the chairman, at 472-2072.

The first production, *Meg*, is already in rehearsal. It will run Feb. 16 through 18 and 20 through 25 at the Studio Theatre.

Meg, by Paula Vogel, is a contemporary look at the daughter of Sir Thomas More. Wineman said *Meg* is a serio-comedic picture of reality for women during the early 16th century. *Meg* is directed by Alexis Reising, Master of Fine Arts candidate.

Parts for the season's remaining three productions will be decided after callbacks ending Friday. *Much Ado About Nothing*, a Shakespearean romantic comedy, will be performed in Howell Theatre March 1 through 3 and 6 through 10.

Much Ado will be directed by Paul Barnes, director of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival. Barnes' company is based in Ashland, Ore. He is guest directing at UNL using grant money given to the theatre through the University Foundation's Layman fund.

"*Much Ado* is one of Shakespeare's most likable and accessible shows," Wineman said. "We're very glad to have Paul here directing it."

Beyond Therapy is a contemporary adult comedy direct from Broadway. The plot centers on a love triangle, two men and one woman . . . with a man in the middle. Author Christopher Durang is one of New York's hot young comic playwrights. Tim Mooney, another MFA candidate, will direct.

The final mainstage production is *Summer and Smoke* by Tennessee Williams. Directed by MFA candidate Con-

stance Hill, the script calls for a boy and girl between the ages of 12 and 16.

"*Summer and Smoke* is about a young woman coming to terms with adulthood, love, and getting away from her family," Wineman said.

Every season, the play selection committee tries to compose a balanced program of historical periods and playwright styles. MFA candidates, directors, actors and designers are invited to submit plays to the committee. With faculty input, the committee establishes the season. Many elements are considered before the final decision is made, Wineman said.

"We have to have enough period shows to make the season interesting for the designers," he said. "There have to be enough roles that are thesis possibilities."

Requests from other university departments also are accepted. *Much Ado* will coincide with UNL's Central Renaissance Conference March 8 through 10. The Spanish department has requested a Spanish show next year during their celebration of "The Golden Age of Spain."

"It's part of our job to educate the audience as well as students and participants," Wineman said. "We try to make sure that within the four years of a student's career here, he can see the entire range of classics, from Greek and Roman to contemporary plays."

Pat Overton, theatre manager, said there has been a history of good support from the community. She said she thinks Lincoln is a "very culturally aware community, and the university theatre is seen as a big contribution to fine theatre."

Overton said university theatre had a very successful season last semester, particularly the productions in Howell. Howell Theatre attendance is usually split 50-50 between student and general patrons, Overton said, while Studio Theatre audiences are almost entirely students.

All mainstage productions begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for students, \$5 for adults and can be reserved by calling 472-2073.

Playhouse production tells explorers' story

The Lincoln Community Playhouse is preparing its first presentation of the new year as well. *Terra Nova* by Ted Tally will be presented in the Oliver T. Joy Theatre, 2500 S. 56th St. Performances are scheduled at 8 p.m. January 20 through 22, 26 through 29, February 2 through 4 and 9 through 11. A 2:30 p.m. matinee also is scheduled for Feb. 5.

The play is taken from the diaries of Robert Falcon Scott (played by David Landis) and his team of explorers. It details Scott's 1912 race to the South Pole against a Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen (Dick Terhune). Mike Kaiser, Tom Martin, Don Mohr, Paul Morgan and Bette Croissant round out the cast.

Ticket prices are \$5.50 for the Thursday and Sunday performances and \$7 for the Friday and Saturday night shows. Reservations may be obtained by calling the Playhouse box office at 489-9608.



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