## daily nebraskan entertainment

## Boys' school mystery next at Howell

by Mary Voboril

Midterms at St. Charles School have just ended, but the students are restless instead of relieved. And with good reason. A sinister evil, caused by God only knows what-or who-is afoot in the school, and the 200 boys seem possessed by it. They harass and torture each other to the point of beating up one boy in the school gym and gouging his eye out.

What is this evil that lurks within, threatening all the occupants?

The faculty at the Catholic boys' boarding school tries to solve the mystery. But instead, the faculty is split; on one side the unpopular Jerome Malley, an authoritarian, no-nonsense Greek and Latin teacher and on the other a 30-year veteran teacher Joseph Dobbs, a warm, generous, loveable Mr. Chips.

Called one of the most satisfying scary shows in years, Child's Play ran on Broadway for more than a year, and UNL is one of the first places outside New York City to obtain rights to present it. Starting this Friday and running through March 18, except on March 12, it will be presented at Howell Theatre.

The setting is in the 70's in the northern part of the U.S. All the action, except for a chilling chapel scene, occurs in a murky school faculty room. There, teachers are pitted against each other, all desperately

trying to put their fingers on the creator of the trouble.

A cutaway view of a stairway outside the faculty room provides numerous instances of the skulking boys' violence against fellow

Directing the play is Hal Floyd, an associate professor of speech and dramatic arts, who called Child's Play one of the best suspense dramas written in recent years... Floyd, who also directed You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running and Man of La Mancha, takes pains to say the play does not go the message route.

"It's meant mostly for entertainment," he said. But he admits that Robert Marasco, the author, might be trying to make a statement in the play about the nature of evil. Floyd prefers letting the audience draw its own conclusions concerning what this statement might be.

But he does offer one interpretation. He said Child's Play may suggest that the cause of any kind of evil is not the result of any one person's actions, but of a variety of

"And in some cases we are all guilty through what we do or what we don't do," he added.

The characters of Malley and Dobbs are played by Dana Mills and Orlan Larson. respectively. A third teacher prominent in the action is Paul Reese, played by George Hansen. The all-male cast is completed by John Kasel, Jim Waechter, Donavon Diez, Paul Green, Rod Orduna, Michael Lang, Pete Kirk, Dale Ashmun, Tony Williams, Greg Wagner, Steve Shelley, Gerald Huber, Dan Overton and Pat Bossard.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Ticket prices weekdays are students \$1.50 and adults \$2. For Friday and Saturday, add 50 cents.

A new, much-needed organization has been formed, The Friends of Music Theatre.

Consisting of UNL students in arts and humanities, especially music and theatre, the group's primary function is encouraging production and creation of musical drama by providing an interested group of writers, composers, performers (muscians, actors, directors, designers and technicians) and, hopefully, audience members.

The Friends' first project is the free presentation of a one-act opera, Smith Longsteth's adaptation of James Thurber's The Unicorn in the Garden on March 21-22, 7:30 p.m. in the Arena Theater, 303 Temple Building.

Directed by Bill Wallis, temporary Chairman of the Friends of Music Theatre and a staff member of the department of English, the show's cast and crews are from the music and theater departments.

There is a following in the University community for this type of entertainment, as demonstrated by the great success of the last two operas presented by the music department, Help, Help, the Globolinks and Madame Butterfly.

Since there will be no admission charged at any of the performances of The Unicorn in the Garden, and there are expenses in production, the Friends could use contributions.

If you can spare any money, send it to Friends of Music Theatre, 325 North 13th, Apt. 2, Lincoln, Nebr. 68508. It will be well used. . . for an organization with a worthwhile goal.

Two laboratory plays, directed by students, will be presented Monday. Alice In Wonderland, adapted from Lewis Carroll's novel and directed by Charol Smith, will be presented in 201 Temple Building, 7:30 p.m., immediately followed by Israel Horowitz's Line, directed by Alan Schuster, in the Arena Theater. Both productions are free.

The Special Films Committee is bringing Breathing Together: Revolution of the Electric Family to Sheldon Gallery Tuesday. Show times are 3, 7 and 9 p.m. Admission is

The Free Theater is active again. This time, Cop-Out, directed by Candy Ostby, will be presented in the Nebraska Union South Crib, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. There is no

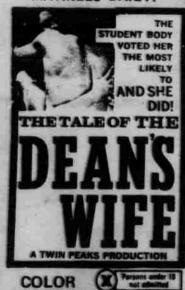
At 8 p.m. Saturday, Quicksilver Messenger Service, the highly talented new group, Malo, and Dust will be at Pershing Auditorium.

If you missed Zachariah last spring, you can catch it now. Union Weekend Films is bringing it to the Union Small Auditorium Friday and Saturday at 6, and 10 p.m. and to East Campus Sunday at 7 and 9 p.m.

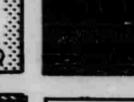
The national touring company of Jesus Christ Superstar is ked in for a repeat performance at Pershing Auditorium on Wednesday, March 15, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6.50, \$5.50 and \$4.50, and if they go like they did last November, you'd better hurry and buy them.



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