

# UNL theatre gives 3 plays

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Repertory Theatre Company opens its sixth season June 29 with the musical "Company," winner of a Tony Award.

The Repertory Theatre also will produce "What the Butler Saw," a farce-comedy by Joe Orton and Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." The three plays will be presented at 8 p.m. in Howell Theatre on an alternating basis.

According to Hal Floyd, managing director of the Repertory Theatre, UNL has one of the few university theatres with a repertory program. Most theatre produce stock plays where one play is presented for period of time, he said.

"Repertory theater has many advantages," Floyd said. "It's a greater challenge to the actor. It enables him to expand his talents. Maintaining several roles at a time is the finest means of expression for an actor."

"And with the same company presenting all three plays, the shifting of roles brings them closer together. It eliminates any star problem," he said.

"Repertory theatre enables the audience to see the same

company of actors in different roles in a short period of time, which further demonstrates the actor's ability to the audience," he said.

Technical problems are increased with repertory theatre, Floyd said. After one performance the set must be replaced with the set for the next play.

Floyd also said that because repertory theatre is more demanding better actors are hired. Rehearsals also are longer because the company is working on two plays at a time.

"We now rehearse 'What the Butler Saw' in the afternoons and 'Company' in the evenings. When 'Company' opens on the 29th we will rehearse 'Butler' in the afternoons and perform 'Company' in the evenings," Floyd said.

"After 'Butler' opens on July 7th, we'll rehearse 'Taming of the Shrew' in the afternoons and present 'Company' and 'Butler' at night until 'Shrew' opens on August 3rd," he said.

The Repertory Theatre is sponsored and supported by UNL and supported by a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Photo by Lucy Lien

David Bell, director of "Company," gives instructions during an evening rehearsal.

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