'Waltz': romance acommon problem

By Dennis Ellermeier

Oh gosh! What is Life anyway? Sixteen years of unconsumated but passionate love and just when things begin to look hopeful they become worse than ever.

This is the central predicament of Jean Anouilh's five act play, "The Waltz of the Toreadors." The play, which opens tonight, is the first in Howell Theatre's 1974-75 season.

"All the characters have a similar problem," according the the play's director, Tice Miller. "All of them are seeking romance." And all find themselves sandwiched between those desires and the need to maintain an unsoiled public appearance.

Miller cautioned that "it is difficult to reduce this play to one central theme; this play is about a lot of things.'

Tug of war . In a three-way tug of war between an aging general, a beautiful young woman who is the subject of his affections and the General's invalid wife, there surface the themes of consequences of

love turned sour, appearances vs. reality, respectability, growing old, possessiveness, the Church and loneliness. The addition of a doctor and a secretary produce

a most confused and bitingly humorous final situation.

Miller, noting a longtime respect for the play, said he has directed it fairly straight, not imposing any of his own messages on the production.

"The script is very tight...What I'm trying to do is simply interpret what Anouilh is trying to say." He added, "I think the script is quite a significant piece of literature."

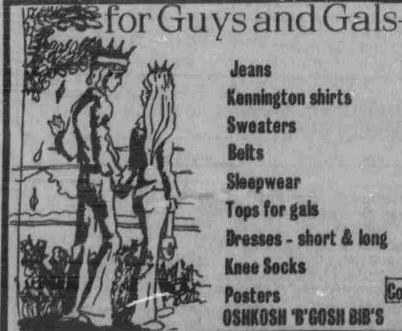
Broadway revival

The play was written in 1952 and was successfully revived last year on Broadway by Eli Walach and Anne Jackson.

Leading roles in the university production are played by Leta Powell Drake, Alan Nielsen, Doug Holsclaw, James Pandzik and Paula Redinger.

The 1910 period costumes were designed by Jo McGlone, with set by Nancy Myers and lights by Bob Moeller and Jerry Lewis.

"The Waltz of the Toreadors" will begin at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and next Monday through Friday. Tickets may be reserved at the Theatre Box Office 1-5 p.m. daily.



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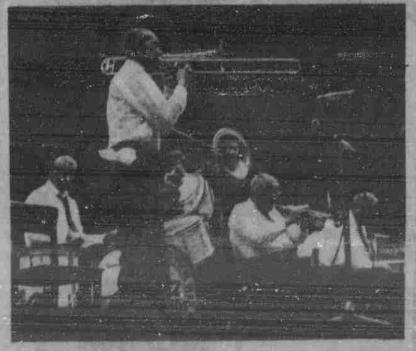
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