

Director: Coward play insightful

Slinky, silver-gowns, white tie and palm trees are artifacts of the art deco 1930's, a era currently riding the nostalgia wave.

But there was more to the era than that. "I don't believe in camping up Coward," said William Glover, guest director for the Nebraska Repertory Theatre production "Private Lives."

Glover, a professional actor turned director from Los Angeles, said Noel Coward's play has a message under all the trappings.

Ticking human beings

"Too many people think just comedy and use a lot of arm-waving, cigarette holders, beauty spots—that kind of thing. Coward had insight into people, the fact that they are ticking human beings with huge hearts," he said.

Although he has not directed "Private Lives" before, Glover starred in the 1969 Broadway revival with Tammy Grimes and Brian Bedford. He said it was "quite successful," noting that Tammy Grimes received a Tony award for the play.

Glover, just out of a Sunday morning rehearsal, said he was excited about the show.

"If the characters don't gel, the play doesn't work. The chemistry between Connie and Roger has got the right quality," he said referring to lead players in the small cast.

Newlywed couple

"Private Lives" is the story of a newlywed couple who encounter their previous spouses honeymooning at the same resort.

In the Repertory production, Roger Johnson plays Elliot, the part originally played by Noel Coward. Connie McCord is Amanda, the character that Coward's wife, the American actress Gertrude Lawrence, originated.

The second couple in the play, Victor and Sybil, is portrayed by Mitch Tebo and Missy Critchfield, Louise the French maid is played by Susan Baer.

The Repertory cast is a talented group, Glover said, and he encourages them to find their own ways to play the parts.

Litmus paper

"I always think of the director as a piece of litmus

paper. The actors bring things and I edit what works and what doesn't," he said.

"Too many directors are involved in theatrical overkill—deadly theatre—I hate director-oriented plays where the actors are used as puppets. I hate it like poison and I'm on a crusade to stop it," he said.

"The actor has to take hold more," he continued. "Theatre is an art form and the artists should take it back."

Glover has directed plays at regional theatres around the country, doing everything from "Romeo and Juliet" to modern Tom Stoppard plays.

Comedy and farce

"I seem to be more successful with comedy and farce," he said.

Glover will be returning briefly to Los Angeles once the Howell play has started, and then he will spend nine months directing a professional actors training school in Ohio.

"Private Lives" will be performed on Aug. 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, 26, 27, and 30 and Sept. 1.

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Architecture school searches for greater space solution

By Lynn Roberts

UN-L's College of Architecture, which is housed in the oldest building on campus, does not want to leave that building, even though additional space is needed, said the school's dean.

"We have significant needs for space that this building can't provide, but we're not anxious to leave it," said W. Cecil Steward.

"We're concerned with putting existing buildings to their best use and we think we can do the best job of preserving this building," he said.

\$25,000 requested

Money has been requested to do a detailed study to determine what approach should be used to provide additional room for the college, Steward said.

Ray Coffey, assistant UN-L

business manager, said about \$25,000 has been requested for the study, but no action has been taken on the request.

Included in the study will be the possibility of building a new school, along with the use of the old law college building which has been assigned to the College of Architecture for temporary use, Steward said.

"I think it would be a mistake to request a new building without evaluating what other options we have," he said.

Self-contained

Steward added he thinks a move to east campus as was done with law and dentistry would hurt the program.

Law and dentistry are more self-contained than architecture, which needs access to city campus, he said.

Steward said there are

problems in making use of the old law college building.

"It's hard to take a building that was designed for one thing and use it for another, but as long as we know it is temporary we can make it work," he said.

An inadequate fire escape, leaking roof and need for repainting and other maintenance add to problems in using the building, Steward said.

Air conditioned

One good quality is that the old law college is air conditioned and the school of architecture is not, he said. Plans are being made to use the third floor of the law college for graduate design and planning studios.

The air conditioning will make work in the studios much more comfortable, especially in the summer, Steward added.

In addition to an increased enrollment in architecture, an increasing of the size of the library is adding to space problems.

"Within one year the size of our library is going to double," Steward said.

He added that although enrollment has been steadily increasing for the past five years, large increases are not expected in the next 10 years.

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