

arts & entertainment

You have to see it to believe it! 'Oh Dad, Poor Dad' has promise

By Charlie Krig

"Mother will never believe this," and you might want to borrow this line from the play to describe the next Studio Theatre production, *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mama's Hung You In The Closet And I'm Feeling So Sad*.

After a Feb. 14 performance, *Oh Dad* promises to be a prime example of absurdist drama. This interesting psychological study of a strange family is directed by Paul Baker with extremely competent help from his technical crew.

In the play, Madame Rosepettle keeps her childish son, Johnathon, locked inside with his stamps, coins and books. Their abnormal lifestyle includes world travels with Madame's pet piranha, two venus fly-traps and the stuffed, 15-year-old corpse of her husband.

Missy Critchfield and Eric Sorenson do admirably as Madame Rosepettle and Johnathon. As the play progresses

their characters and relationships grow more natural and believable.

Paul Redinger plays with understanding her role of Rosalie, the young temptress who meets her death trying to seduce Johnathon in his mother's bed. Other cast members give able support as the fish, fly-traps, cuckoo clock and servants. Their attempts at giving life to these "inhuman" forms add to the play's credibility.

The man of the hour, however, is Greg Wagner as Commodore Roseabove. His comic, yet truly believable, character is shown in a lengthy scene where Madame recites pages of lines about her past. His reactions at this time give a subtle, effective hint of his discomfort.

The playwright, Arthur Kopit, describes the play as "a pseudo-classical tragi-farce in a bastard French tradition." That is more easily understood in one of the play's lines, "Life is a lie."

Kopit refuses to admit that his characters lead a life stranger than our own. He explains our absurd natures in another line, "There are more things in heaven and earth than you have ever dreamed in your philosophy."

The play would make us think that its characters are sane and we are crazy. After five minutes you find yourself agreeing that the abstract set designed by Karen Brown, the bizarre costumes by Sue Seager, lighting by Tom Rawson and sound by Jim Ryan all are pictures of our own lives. These technicians used great foresight and knowledge in creating the play's unique mood.

Watch the play with an open mind and you soon believe Madame Rosepettle when she says, "Life is a husband hanging on a hook in your closet. Open it too soon and your day's shot to hell. But open the door just a little ways. . . and your day is made. Yet he's still there, and waiting, and sooner or later the moth balls are gone and you have to clean house."

Oh Dad . . . will run from Feb. 17 to 22, at 8 p.m. in the Studio Theatre at the Temple Bldg. Leave your old notions and prejudices behind and see what life really is.

Lincoln symphony performs Tuesday

The Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, with the Lincoln Symphony Choral and the UNL Madrigal Singers, will perform Faure's *Requiem* at 8 p.m. Tuesday in the O'Donnell Auditorium at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Soprano Doris Ganz, from Gibbon, Neb., and baritone Vaughn Fritts, UNL senior music major from Lincoln, will be soloists.

Also on the program is the symphony's performance of Hindemith's *Mathes der Maler*. Robert Emile, UNL Symphony conductor, will conduct.

At 7:15 p.m. there will be two miniconcerts of works by young composers. Four members of the symphony will perform two string quartets, one written by Peter Jorgensen, a senior at Lincoln East High School, the other by David Seward, a UNL freshman music major from Lincoln.

Seward said he wrote the quartet while vacationing at a Wyoming dude ranch during the summer of 1974. The 19-year-old violin and viola player said he continues to write music. This quartet, he said, was first performed last March at Ralston High School.

Single admission tickets to the concert and miniconcerts, costing \$4.50 and \$5.50, are available through the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra. For information and reservations, call 432-5497 or 488-9420.



Photo courtesy of Danny Lyon

Two documentaries, *Tupamaros!* and *Los Ninos Abandonados* (The Abandoned Children), will be screened at the Sheldon Film Theatre Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. *Tupamaros!* is Jan Lindqvist's look into Latin America's most renowned urban guerilla group, Uruguay's National Liberation Movement (MLN). *Los Ninos Abandonados* is Danny Lyon's film of children (like the ones pictured above) who live on the streets of Santa Marta, Columbia.

half frames

This week's television and movie highlights.

Monday

On Her Majesty's Secret Service. (ABC, 7:30 p.m.) George Lazenby stars as secret agent 007 in part one of this James Bond spectacular.

Diana Rigg co-stars as the girl both beautiful and brave enough to take Bond to the alter. Arch enemy Ernest Stavro Blofeld (Telly Savalas) interrupts the wedding plans.

Charles Manson: Portrait in Terror. (ABC, 10:30 a.m.) A profile of murderer Charles Manson, presented by psychologist Jeremy Ritzlin and the trial's defense and prosecuting attorneys.

Tuesday
Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?

(CBS, 10:30 p.m.) Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, George Segal and Sandy Dennis star in this Academy Award-winning movie about a turbulent marriage.

Wednesday

Tony Orlando and Dawn. (CBS, 7 p.m.) Three masters of comedy, Sid Caesar, Joey Bishop and Milton Berle join Tony Orlando in numerous spoofs of film classics.

Theater in America. (NETV, 8 p.m.) In *Zalem Or The Madness Of God*, an impassioned rabbi rebels against Russia's persecution of the Jews in his small town.

Who Loves Ya Baby? (CBS, 9 p.m.) America's favorite ladies man and *Kojak* star, Telly Savalas, stars in his first variety special. Diahann

Carroll, Barbara Eden and Cloris Leachman guest star.

Thursday

James Dean. (NBC, 7 p.m.) In this made-for-television movie, writer William Bast dramatizes his friendship with the late, legendary film star James Dean. The story covers the two men's relationship from their meeting in acting school to Dean's early death.

Dean Martin. (NBC, 9 p.m.) Heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali rolls with the verbal punches as he is roasted by Martin, Foster Brooks, Freddie Prinze and Wilt Chamberlain among others.

Tomorrow. (NBC, midnight) Host Tom Snyder discusses teen-age prostitution.

Friday

World Heavyweight Championship Fight. (CBS, 8 p.m.) Muhammad Ali fights European contender Jean-Pierre Coopman for the World Heavyweight title, live from San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Adam's Chronicles (NETV, 9:30 p.m.) John Adams over-

comes his reluctance to hold office and is elected the nation's first vice-president. He is caught in the midst of a personal rivalry between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton.

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Documentary Films



LOS NINOS ABANDONADOS
(THE ABANDONED CHILDREN)
U.S.A. 1975
63 minutes color
A film by Danny Lyon

—The documentation of the errant lifestyles of poor, homeless children who live in the streets of Columbia, South America.

plus a second feature
TUPAMAROS!
Uruguay 1972 50 minutes color
Directed by Jan Lindqvist

—TUPAMAROS! is a unique film document, an exclusive view from the inside of Latin America's renowned urban guerilla organization, Uruguay's National Liberation Movement (MLN).

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday—
February 17, 18 & 19

One screening each evening beginning at 7 p.m. Admission \$1.50

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