

Opening night draws closer for UNL playwright

By Charlie Krig

World premieres are usually associated with glamour and excitement. Next Tuesday a play will open with a somber theme that doesn't match its performance birth. UNL graduate theater student Robert Beadell Jr. wrote the play, *The Final Stroke*, as his MFA thesis and after two major re-writes and numerous alterations, opening night is drawing closer.

The play has "changed a lot" during the last year, Beadell said, and there have even been some revisions during the week the play has been rehearsed. His original idea was to show a group of monks who hide during the black plague. The plot was to concert their isolation in the monastery while the townspeople suffered outside with unanswered cries for help.

The present version occurs in Tutney (a fictional village in England) in 1348. The old idea was "locked too much on one spot," Beadell said, so he expanded it to include more townspeople, specifically, a persecuted Jew and his relationship with the others. Balavignus (a name adopted from a real Jewish scholar of that time) is blamed for the plague because he is different from the English people: they are ignorant and afraid of his knowledge. Balavignus also is falsely accused of buying a boy from his mother, a charge cleared by Bartholomew, one of Balavignus' students.

The play took over a year to research but Beadell's interest in the subject extends to his high school days. He said it began when he read Herman Hesse's *Narcissus and Goldmund*. Later he got more information from Hublein's *The Black Death* but his details came from microfilms of 16th century documents.

"The microfilms were the best information source for the attitudes of the time because the people knew nothing at all about medicine," he said. "It told me how they really acted under the situation."

A group of theater students read the play for the theater department faculty last December when the decision was made to produce *The Final Stroke*. Beadell said he received few suggestions from the instructors be-

cause they realized that it is his play. On the other hand, Beadell has been careful not to influence the director's interpretation.

"I've watched rehearsals a couple of times and made



Photo by Bob Pearson

Robert Beadell Jr.

a few changes in the script, even a few minor changes last week. I enjoyed seeing the play but it kind of put the actors and director on edge when I went in. The actors would start asking me questions that they should have been asking the director," Beadell said.

But when the play is over, will there be more revisions of the script? "I think so," he said. "I've gotten many ideas from rehearsal but I'm interested in the people's reactions to it. The only ones to see the play so far have been the theater faculty and I can't wait to see how the general public reacts to the play."

Artistic inclination is natural for Beadell. His parents are accomplished musical enthusiasts. His mother teaches voice lessons and his father, Robert Sr., is a UNL School of Music instructor who has had two of his own works (the operas *Napoleon* and *The Number of Fools*) produced at UNL. But Beadell said there never was any pressure to be an artist, let alone a musical artist.

"All my life my father's been writing so I'm sure that influenced me. My father never pushed me. I took some music lessons for awhile but he didn't want to force me to be a musician's son," Beadell said.

Another influence Beadell noted was playwright Bertolt Brecht. He said Brecht gave him an affinity for theatrical aspects of plays such as short scenes, projections and special writing. For that reason, Beadell said, "I try to change my style. I think every playwright writes his Chekhovian play or his Tennessee Williams Play."

Beadell said present theater movements are searching for new directions but that is hard because so many types are popular now. Beadell will be part of the movements because he intends to continue writing and possibly do some college teaching.

But for the next week, *The Final Stroke* will be on his mind. He said he probably will go on the opening and closing nights but everything in between is unscheduled. And, in spite of his friends and relatives who will attend the show, Beadell said there aren't any plans yet for a Tuesday night celebration.

Still, it is a world premiere and Beadell said it "should be a gala opening."

pot luck

Sweep Left (815 O)—If you thought this was just a foosball hangout, try the very good prime rib. Also offers seafood and salad bar.

Tico's (317 S. 17)—Good Mexican food and good mixed drinks, but you may have to wait during peak hours because this is a very popular restaurant.

Tony and Luigi's (5140 O)—A popular premium restaurant with an Italian flair. Everything on the menu is good, but bring money because it's not cheap. Good for a "special" meal.

Valentino's Pizza (3547 Holdrege, 2701 S. 70, 27th and Highway 2)—The classic college pizza hangout, and for good reason. Fine-flavored pizza, not as heavy as Godfather's or as light as Pizza Hut. Salads are big and crisp, cheese and garlic rolls tasty. Check the Yellow Pages before going because not all locations are open all days. Often a long wait.

Village Inn (2949 N. 27, 111 S. 29, 111 S. 66)—A pancake house with a wide menu choice, open until 2 a.m. Village Inn burger is a good value. Unusual items—blintzes, German apple pancake (which may be too big for one person to eat unassisted.) Service is usually rather quick.

Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers (930 N. 48, 2615 S. 48)—The best hamburgers of the chain shops if you like plain hamburgers. Mild but pleasant chili also good. The ordering system is a little inconvenient and prices are on the high side for hamburger places, but many consider the extra cost worth it.

Greenwich Cafe (1917 O)—An unpretentious cafe that's turned into a trendy gathering place for some groups of students. Famous for its fish and chips, but also offers other good items, especially soups.

Kuhl's (1038 O)—A nice, quiet little diner with reasonable prices, competently prepared food, although nothing fancy.

Little King (1311 O, 1045 N. 27, 3801 N. 48)—Your choice in submarine sandwich shops is determined mostly by what you like on your mammoth meal. Little King tops its sandwiches with several vegetables unless requested otherwise. Choice of meats is wide.

McDonald's (865 N. 27, 5305 O, 3330 S. 20)—Everyone complains about McDonald's, and everyone goes there. It's because they have several things that are pretty good by any standard. Big Mac's special sauce makes it a top burger, and competitors don't offer cherry pie.

Perkins 'Cake and Steak (2900 NW 12)—A relatively new entry in the 24-hour pancake and meat category, it offers unusually light pancakes and good steaks. Service is a bit slow but very friendly. Prices about average.

Pizza Hut (239 N. 14, 2435 S. 48)—A convenient location offering pizza to those who prefer it thin and light. Several other Italian items too. Not as expensive as some other pizzerias.

Sam's Self-Service (1001 S. 13, 2135 N. 48)—A hamburger place with little provision for eating in. The "Big Samson" is the best deal on the menu. Pecan pie is good.

Super Sub (930 S. 13, 1321 O, 339 N. Cotner)—This submarine sandwich shop also offers a wide meat choice. Topping runs to shredded lettuce with vinegar and oil. Not quite as strongly flavored as Little King sandwich, take your choice.

THURSDAY APR. 13, 1978
EVENING

- 8:00 ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ NEWS
- ⑥ EMERGENCY ONE
- ⑦ DICK VAN DYKE SHOW
- ⑧ WOONSPE (EDUCATION AND THE SIOUX)
- 8:30 ⑨ NEWLYWED GAME
- ⑩ MARY TYLER MOORE
- ⑪ TO TELL THE TRUTH
- ⑫ CONCENTRATION
- ⑬ WILD KINGDOM "World Of The Sea Otter"
- ⑭ ODD COUPLE
- ⑮ THURSDAY MAGAZINE
- ⑯ MACNEIL LEHRER REPORT
- 7:00 ⑰ JOKER'S WILD
- ⑱ THE HANNA-BARBERA HAPPY HOUR This comedy-variety series will be hosted by Honey and Sis, a couple of almost life size, nearly human puppets. This week's guests are Leif Garrett, Anson Williams, Charo, Gavin MacLeod and Yogi Berra (Premiere, 60 min.)
- ⑲ WELCOME BACK, KOTTER Gabe's teaching career is on the line when he gives mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a girl who fainted and Mr. Woodman misinterprets the act as an assault.
- ⑳ THE WALTONS Both Mary Ellen and Erin suffer when Mary Ellen's husband is drafted and Erin's former boyfriend, G.W., enlists in the Army. (R, 60 min.)
- ㉑ ADAM 12
- ㉒ WILD WORLD OF ANIMALS "The Barn Owl"
- 7:30 ㉓ HOLLYWOOD CONNECTION
- ㉔ WHAT'S HAPPENING!! While Mama is away, Shirley takes over the Thomas household while Raj and Rerun prepare to take final exams before graduation from high school.
- ㉕ MOVIE "The Quick Gun" 1964 Audie Murphy, Merry Anders. A cowhand redeems himself when he fights a gang of outlaws in his home town. (2 hrs.)
- ㉖ AGRI-SCOPE
- 8:00 ㉗ MOVIE "The Questor Tapes" 1973 Robert Foxworth, Mike Farrell. Questor is not a man, nor a machine. He is an astounding combination of both, an android robot. He appears to be a completely functional male but has the power and strength of five humans. (2 hrs.)
- ㉘ BLACK SHEEP SQUADRON The leader of a group of Women's Air Service Pilots is determined to avoid any incident that could bring disgrace on her unit, and demands that Peppy issue a "hands off" order to the black sheep. (R, 90 min.)
- ㉙ BARNY MILLER Captain Miller and his detectives are stymied when a mortician reports a stolen body. Then retired Detective Phil Fish steps in to lend a hand in the investigation. (R)
- ㉚ HAWAII FIVE-O Princess Amina, wife of prince Al Rashid, is flitting near-Eastern potentate, is

thursday

HANNA-BARBERA HAPPY HOUR



Abe Vigoda, Melissa Gilbert and Betty White are guests of life-size puppets Honey and Sis on the second 'Hanna-Barbera Happy Hour' of fun, comedy and music Thursday, April 20 on NBC-TV.

Miss White plays the puppets' voice teacher, who while under the influence of brandy candies, rum cakes and cough medicine, urges the sisters to pursue careers in music.

In a takeoff of TV's 'Laverne and Shirley,' Honey is Lavine. Sis is Shrilly and Vigoda is Lavine's father. Together they satirize the series that satirizes the '50s. In the regular segment 'Disco of Life,' White is the center of attention at the Party, during which she claims that she can foretell the future and Vigoda is an aging child movie star who can't get out of the past.

Miss Gilbert (pictured with Honey) and Sis sing and dance in the jazz-waltz number, 'Waltzin' the Jack.' White sings 'Razz-Ma-Tazz Me.'

kidnapped in Hawaii, and a beautiful Italian journalist, who can provide McGarrett with crucial information, cites freedom of the press as her reason for withholding it. (60 min.)

- 8:30 ① A.E.S. HUDSON STREET A deceased patient springs back to life and Doctor Menzies faces the task of breaking the news to the man's not-so-grieving widow.
- ② VICTORY AT SEA "The Killers And The Killed"
- 9:00 ③ POLICE WOMAN The discovery of a huge illegal arms cache prompts Pepper to tell the story to a Congressional committee, but her testimony attracts the attention of a gang of gun runners who hire a hit man to silence her. (R, 60 min.)
- ④ BARETTA Tony Baretta goes undercover as the trainer of a burnt-out former welterweight champion to trap a killer. (R, 60 min.)
- ⑤ BARNABY JONES Lee

Purcell guest stars as the sister of a hit-and-run-victim who disappears after the accident. (R, 60 min.)

- ⑥ NORTHWEST TRAVELER "Pastimes On The French Riviera"
- 9:30 ⑦ NEWS
- ⑧ DATELINE NEBRASKA
- 10:00 ⑨ STAR TREK "The Enterprise Incident" (60 min.)
- ⑩ ⑪ ⑫ NEWS
- ⑬ ODD COUPLE
- ⑭ DICK CAVETT SHOW Part II of an interview with a panel of songwriters includes Sammy Cahn, Alan Jay Lerner and Arthur Schwartz.
- 10:30 ⑮ THE TONIGHT SHOW Host: Johnny Carson. Guests: Bob Hope, Lola Falana, Joseph Wambaugh. (90 min.)
- ⑯ STARSKY AND HUTCH—TOMA Starsky and Hutch—"Long Walk On A Short Dirt Road" A pretty country singer is plagued by telephone calls from a raspy-voiced stranger demanding money. (R) Toma—"Frame-Up" Toma is set up by the head of a crime syndicate to take the blame for the beating of a hoodlum. (R, 2 hrs., 15 min.)
- ⑰ HONEYMOONERS
- ⑱ MOVIE "Keep Your Powder Dry" 1945 Lana Turner, Laraine Day. A soldier's wife stops an open rivalry between a wealthy playgirl and an "army brat" at WAC candidate school. (2 hrs.)
- ⑲ CBS LATE MOVIE "M.A.S.H." Radar, with his unusual powers of observation, prepares a report on the events of the 4077th unit. "Some Came Running" Stars Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin
- ⑳ LEGISLATIVE REVIEW
- 11:00 ㉑ STARSKY AND HUTCH—TOMA Starsky and Hutch—"Iron Mike" A noted police captain is seen taking an envelope from a racketeer which Starsky and Hutch are assigned to in-

investigate. (R) Toma—"Blockhouse Breakdown" Toma poses as a cop-hating misfit in an aborted plan to lure a young sniper barricaded atop a building. (R, 2 hrs., 15 min.)

- ㉒ CBS LATE MOVIE "MASH" The 4077th unit begins to take on the air of Epsom Downs as Hawkeye, Trapper John and their friends run a daily betting pool on how far off target Five O'Clock Charlie will miss their munitions dump. (R) "Forever Darling" Stars Lucille Ball, Desi Arnaz
- ㉓ PREVIN AND THE PITT-SBURGH "An Evening With Comden And Green" The musical comedy team of Betty Comden and Adolph Green join Andre Previn for reminiscences of their movie musical days in Hollywood. Classic material includes "Bells Are Ringing," "On The Town" and "Singin' In The Rain" (60 min.)
- 12:00 ㉔ TOMORROW Host: Tom Snyder. Guest: David Weltha, University of Iowa professor who will discuss his course on reincarnation. (60 min.)
- 12:30 ㉕ MOVIE "The Secret Partner" 1961 Stewart Granger, Haya Harareet. (105 min.)
- ① NEWS
- 12:45 ② ANSWER IS LOVE
- 1:00 ③ NEWS
- 1:15 ④ MOVIE "The Questor Tapes" 1973 Robert Foxworth, Mike Farrell. (60 min.)
- 1:45 ⑤ DRAGNET
- ⑥ FOCUS
- 2:15 ⑦ NEWS
- 2:45 ⑧ LOVE AMERICAN STYLE
- 3:00 ⑨ DICK VAN DYKE SHOW
- 3:30 ⑩ NIGHT GALLERY
- 4:00 ⑪ THRILLER
- 5:00 ⑫ UNTAMED WORLD
- 5:30 ⑬ WILDLIFE THEATRE

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