

Wilson plays . . .

Continued from Page 8

"It's essential that a playwright get the kind of feedback and response that only an audience can give, to help him evaluate his work and the reactions to it," Wilson said. "It's very possible that I might re-write a play after a production—the audience is definitely a factor."

Wilson, who wrote the highly successful adaptation of last December's *A Christmas Carol*, as well as last year's *Flight of the Albatross*, which has since received a commendation from the American College Theater Festival, said "audiences sometimes see one play by a playwright, and feel they know what he's all about."

"With these plays, people will have the opportunity to hear three widely different 'voices,' all coming out of the same person," he said.

Title reflects theme

The three one-act plays are grouped under the title *Rituals of Passing Strangers*, the basic theme that binds the three pieces together.

The first play, *Surprise Party for Mrs. Meeker*, is a black comedy thriller with strong psychological undercurrents. The second, *Boys Life! - Subscribe Today!*, is a farcical burlesque of the rituals of parenthood.

The final play, *Rituals of Passing Strangers*, from which the anthology derives its name, is the most serious statement of the author's ideas.

The play is "a poignant drama about the ritualized conceptions we have about sex as an intimate relationship," Wilson said. "It looks beyond physical intimacy to the ways we really touch."

The ensemble of eight actors and directors involved in the project include many names and faces that will be familiar to playgoers. In the tightly-knit company, members direct as well as perform in the other plays and several actors are in two of the three shows.

Enthused

"They're very enthusiastic about the ensemble idea," Wilson said. "They love what they're doing. If this project is successful, we want to do three more."

Following each performance, the group plans an informal "round-table" discussion for all who care to participate.

The production itself is an informal, workshop. Setting and lights will be kept at a minimum, leaving the focus on the actors and the plays.

"The plays are for mature audiences. They challenge conventional mores, a little controversial, perhaps," Wilson said. "We think that the audience will find them to be serious, challenging and entertaining pieces of theater."

The performances of *3 x 1 x 3* will be at 8:00 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday evening, and the weekend of March 22 and 23. Admission is free.

Chomsky to give talks on linguistics politics

Noted linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky will give two free public lectures on the UNL campus Monday, March 17.

Sponsored by the UNL English Department, the University Program Council-City's Talks and Topics Committee and the Montgomery Lectureship Fund, Chomsky will speak on "Current Issues in Linguistics" at 3 p.m. in Sheldon Art Gallery.

He will speak on "America's Role in Global Politics" at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

An Institute Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, Chomsky has written more than 15 books dealing with linguistics, philosophy, intellectual history and contemporary issues.

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