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Lincoln's Moliere-based 'Scapino' mixes elements, falls short of mark

By Lisa Renner and Jeff Goodwin

"Scapino," the latest offering of the Lincoln Community Playhouse, boasts that it is "a long way off from Moliere." They're right...a real long way off.

"Scapino" is loosely based on a play Moliere wrote centuries ago. It is set in present-day Naples and

Theater Review

revolves around the efforts of Scapino, the quintessential Italian rogue, to set things right between two sons and their fathers.

Scapino will stop at nothing and use any means, fair or foul, to achieve his goal. In spite of this, Scapino is good-hearted, and is always the first person that people turn to for help. With his wit and loyalty, Scapino is like the Bill Murray of Naples.

The trouble with the play is that it relies too much on slapstick. Unless you're the Three Stooges, slapstick, like Bavarian mints, is best when taken in moderation.

The actual dialogue of the play just isn't that witty and, eventually, the slapstick wears thin. And some of the slapstick is even pretty good. There's just too much of it.

The end result of all this is not humor but silliness. Part of the weakness of the play stems from the fact that it mixes two different elements. It claims to

be in the present, yet we have Ottavio (Paul Morgan) running around in fear of his father because he has chosen not to go through with the marriage his father has arranged for him. One minute an actor will be giving a beautiful speech that could have been heard in Moliere's time, and the next minute he'll start talking like he's in a television commercial. Jumping through the centuries like this, presents an obstacle that the audience must hurdle.

Audience participation is a must, in fact it's practically unavoidable. Cast members wander through the aisles, delivering their lines from various positions in the house. Although it's a bit distracting, it fits into the general unstructured, laid-back image running through the play itself. Life is slow at this cafe in Naples, a contradiction to the characters themselves.

Passion and anger are exaggerated beyond conceivable proportions. This may be one case where a high-energy level adds nothing to the play, but keeps everything in a state of continuous havoc. The constant comic relief makes everything seem unreal. "Scapino" comes off as one continual running joke, and waiting until the second act for the punchline gets tiresome.

Two especially good performances come from Phil Rooney as Scapino, and Ced Gibb as Sylvestro, Scapino's bumbling sidekick. Like a polished used car salesman, Rooney fits comfortably into his role.

Overall, despite some good individual performances, "Scapino" falls just a bit short.

"Scapino" concludes its run at the Playhouse with performances tonight and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

WEEKEND

ART

Eleventh Street Gallery, 305 S. 11th St. — "Five Women Printmakers," prints by former UNL students Julie Vosoba, Ardy Godfrey, Laura Bentz, Cecile Broz and Renee Witherwax.

Haymarket Art Gallery, 119 S. 9th St. — A mish-mash of everything.

University Place Art Center, 4822 Cleveland Avenue — Prize-winning works from the Association of Nebraska Art Clubs convention.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery — Blaffer Foundation Abstract Expressionist collection continues, as does Ansel Adams photography tribute and recent photography acquisitions.

LIVE BANDS

Bill's Saloon, 1020 P St. — The Obvious, P.U.S.H. and Four Against One, tonight and Saturday, \$2.50 cover charge.

Chesterfield, Bottomsley and Potts, 245 N. 13th St. — Sean Benjamin, Friday and Saturday, no cover charge.

Drumstick Lounge, 547 N. 48th St. — The Model Citizens Club, tonight and Saturday, \$3 cover charge.

Green Frog, 1010 P St. — Cardiac, tonight and Saturday, no cover charge.

Judges, 2630 Cornhusker Highway — Windows, tonight and Saturday, \$2 cover charge.

Little Bo's Center, 2630 Cornhusker Highway — Bozak and Morrisey, tonight and Saturday, \$2 cover charge.

Mountains, 311 S. 11th St. — Backstage Johnny, tonight, \$1 cover charge.

Rivera's, 1920 West O St. — Blue River, no cover charge.

Royal Grove Nite Club, 340 W. Cornhusker Highway — Justin Morgan, tonight and Saturday, no cover charge.

Skyline Bistro, 235 N. 11th St. — Dennis Taylor, tonight, no cover charge; Newton and Sayre, Saturday, no cover charge.

Tucker Inn, 3235 S. 13th St. — Free Ride, \$2 cover charge.

Zoo Bar, 136 N. 14th St. — Caribe, \$3.50 cover charge.

MOVIES

Cinema 1 & 2 — "Rhinestone" 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.; "Gremlins" 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m.

Cooper — "Star Trek III" 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m.

Douglas 3 — "Top Secret!" 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20 p.m.; "Karate Kid" 1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30 and 9:40 p.m.; "Cannonball Run II" 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40 and 9:40 p.m.

East Park 3 — "Conan the Destroyer" 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.; "Rhinestone" 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35 and 9:45 p.m.; "Gremlins" 1:10, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 and 9:25 p.m.

Plaza 4 — "Romancing the Stone" 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15 and 9:30 p.m.; "The Pope of Greenwich Village" 1, 3:40, 6:20 and 9 p.m.; "Bachelor Party" 1, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45 and 10 p.m.; "Conan the Destroyer" 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:30 and 9:45 p.m.

Sheldon Film Theatre — "The Lady From Shanghai" 7 and 9 tonight, 3, 7 and 9 p.m. Sunday.

State — "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:20 and 9:40 p.m.

Stuart — "Ghostbusters" 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:40 and 9:45 p.m.

84th and O — "Cannonball Run II" and "Never Say Never Again"

Starview — "Bachelor Party" and "All the Right Moves"

West O — "Police Academy" and "Up the Creek"

THEATRE

Kimball Recital Hall — "The Boy Friend," UNL Music Theatre, Saturday, 8 p.m.

Temple Hall Studio Theatre — "Crimes of the Heart," Nebraska Repertory Theatre, tonight and Saturday 8 p.m.

Folsom Children's Zoo — "A Toby Show," Nebraska Repertory Theatre, Saturday 10 a.m.

Lincoln Community Playhouse — "Scapino" tonight and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

Joy Division history dry, accurate

Book review by Stephanie Zink

An Ideal For Living — An History of Joy Division
Mark Johnson Proteus Books

One of the most complete books about a rock band today is an excellent diary of Joy Division's comings and goings.

The balance of the material in "An Ideal For Living" comes mostly from the use of quotes from the music press, influential people in Joy Division's career and the various members of the band themselves.

Although these quotes and reviews pertaining to Joy Division's beginnings and future help to make the book complete, along with the documentation of almost every single concert and record, the format may be a little on the dry side. It is arranged

in chronological order with headings announcing the concert or record with a brief description underneath.

The book covers the time when the Stiff Kittens first formed during the punk explosion in 1976, to their evolution into Warsaw to the Joy Division, how the band coped with lead singer Ian Curtis' suicide and then finally to the band's current formation as New Order.

It seems through Joy Division's whole career they have received both good and bad press — as with most bands now — but even a few years after their formation they were still trying to gain some popularity, or at least make their sound be known.

"An Ideal For Living" is a must for Joy Division/New Order fans and an excellent documentation of the evolution and hopeful future of a unique band.