

Arts & Entertainment

Student adapts short play for screen



David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

Dave Landis and Mari Weiss, the only two characters in the play "Landscape With Waitress," receive direction from off camera during rehearsal.

By Mark Holt

A half hour screen adaptation of Robert Pine's short play, "Landscape With Waitress" is in the making for possible use by the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

The person responsible for the entire project, Todd Nelson, a combined broadcasting and theater major at UNL, came across the play two and a half years ago and recently decided to make a full scale production of it. This took the form of a three day lunch theater in the Atrium last fall, which had a good response.

But to fulfill the requirements of a class, Nelson needed to take it a step further. With partial backing by NETV he set out to produce a version of the play that would be suitable for television.

For the cast of the two-character play, Nelson chose the same people he used for the lunch theater. Mari Weiss, a UNL graduate student in theater, plays the waitress, and Senator David Landis plays Arthur.

"Most people use other students in their projects," Nelson said during a private screening. "But I wanted to go all out. I had admired David Landis' work for a long time, and I thought he would be perfect for the role. I wrote him a letter requesting him to audition and he called me right back to say that he would."

Shooting took place during the evenings of June 10 to 15 at Johnson's Cafe, an eating establishment

in south Lincoln.

A volunteer crew of fifteen people from the UNL theater and broadcasting departments assisted with the taping.

"Not only did I get experience as a director and all the jobs associated with that, but I gave others a first taste of what it's like to work on a crew," Nelson said.

The plot involves a man going to an empty restaurant at night and meeting the waitress who's on duty. He begins to fantasize about what it would be like to ask her out and have a relationship with her. The waitress joins in with the man's fantasies and they act out various romantic scenarios.

"There's a little bit of the main character in all of us. We're all chickens. We fantasize about what it would be like to ask this person out or do something daring but we never do it. The Walter Mitty-like lives of our minds make our everyday lives look very dull," Nelson said.

The playwright, Robert Pine, was in Lincoln prior to the shooting to confer with Nelson on the production. Nelson commented on how the meeting with the writer affected his conception of what the play ought to be.

"Actually, I found more similarities than differences. Some of the things we did, things you have to intuit from the script, were done exactly the same way for the original shows in New York," he said.

The project, which Nelson is currently editing, will be considered for airing by NETV sometime this fall.

FINE ARTS

By Sarah Sieler

All good, hardworking burnt-out columnists deserve a vacation. This is my vacation, so instead of garnishing this column with a lot of in-depth details, I'm just going to present the facts stark naked and let you figure out on your own how to entertain yourself this week.

The musical "Camelot" will be staged at 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday in the Pinewood Bowl open-air amphitheater in Pioneers Park.

If you're in the mood for outdoor entertainment this week, here's what's happening:

Wednesday, Dennis Taylor is playing at Foundation Garden from noon to 1 p.m. A Midsummer's Night's Talent Show will be held in Antelope Park that evening.

Thursday, the Bluegrass Crusade will play at Foundation Garden from noon to 1 p.m. The Youth Indian Dancers will perform at Antelope Park that evening.

The Dance Institute will be featured in Antelope Park Friday and a Municipal Band Concert will be held in the park Sunday. All events at Antelope Park will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Latin American Political Posters will be on display through Sunday at the Eleventh Street Gallery, 305 S. 11th St.

Aileen and Elkin Thomas will be performing folk music at a house concert at 8 p.m. Friday at Curley Ennis' house, 602 S. 7th St. in Ashland.

The Sheldon Film Theater will present "Eclipse," directed by Michelangelo Antonioni today at 3 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. and "Le Petit Theatre De Jean Renoir" Wednesday at 1 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. "Touch of Evil," directed by Orson Welles, will be shown Thursday to Sunday at 7 and 9 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m.

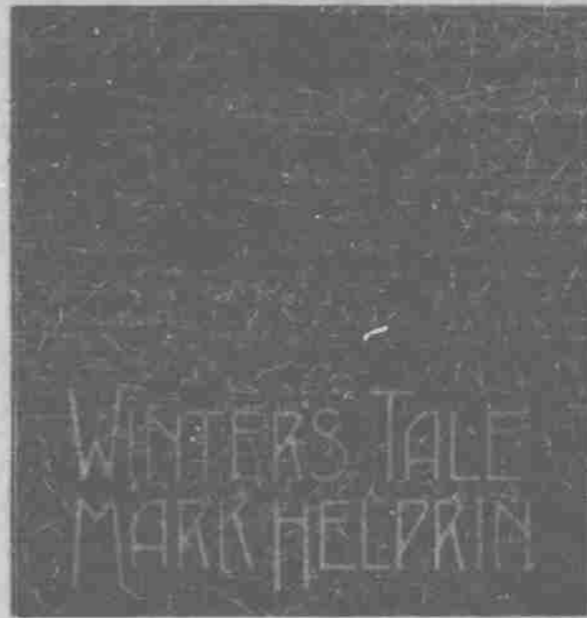
The art work of Linda Benton will be featured at the Governor's Mansion during July. The paintings may be viewed on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment.

A Czech Heritage Benefit will be held from 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday at Pershing Municipal Auditorium.

The International Folk Dancers of Lincoln are now meeting at 7:30 p.m. on the west side of Sheldon Art Gallery for their Friday-night dancing.

Neal Hellman, nominated for a Grammy Award and best folk album of the year in 1982, will present two dulcimer workshops and a concert Saturday in Omaha.

'Winter's Tale': detailed to a fault



Book Review by Kevin Oursland

"Winter's Tale" by Mark Helprin, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Apocalyptic tales involving allegorical figures engaged in end-of-the-world struggles of good and evil have a long, important history in literature, predating even John's terrifying vision that completes the New Testament.

As we edge our way toward the close of the second millennium — a psychologically unsettling event in itself — in possession of cold technical knowledge which demands secular answers to even the most intimate and inexplicable of questions, such tales calling for faith in an increasingly skeptical age, are likely to assume greater importance until we are safely over the period of difficulty. Mark Helprin's latest novel, "Winter's Tale," is such a book.

"Winter's Tale," is the epic fantasy of the transfiguration of Peter Lake from common criminal to near deity.

Everything about Peter Lake has a mythical quality, and the things that happen to him, from his arrival in America during one of the immigration waves of the late 19th century, to the knife wound he receives in his abdomen, evoke religious comparisons. In this way, "Winter's Tale" becomes at once contemporary and universal.

Hidden away in a miniature ship by parents forbidden entry into the country because of poor health, the infant Peter drifts to the Bayonne Marsh, a "mysterious place of uncharted tangled channels and capacious bays" populated by a strange Oriental-like people called Baymen. Peter is raised by the Baymen, who instruct him in the use of the sword and the mind. Because he was not born a Bayman, Peter is packed off at the age of 12 to the "high narrow kingdom" of Manhattan which lies, as upon clouds, across the bay. The city, at once decadent and sublime, earthy and ethereal, provides the setting against which the moral struggles of the novel are played out.

In the city, Peter is taken to the Rev. Overweary's Home for Lunatic Boys. Here he learns the trade of mechanics and "though a slave, he was in paradise." When he unwittingly aids the genius of tools, the

Rev. Mootfowl, in committing suicide by driving an iron stake through his heart, Peter must leave the home. He seeks refuge with the Short Tails, one of the many gangs roaming the streets of the city, where he learns a number of "unorthodox trades." The leader of the Short Tails is the ruthless, if bumbling, Pearly Soames.

Peter remains with the Short Tails until Pearly, seeking to sate his insane craving for pure color, gets it into his head to capture a certain shade of gold — in itself a rather charming idea — and imprison it for eternity. The thought appeals to Peter until he realizes that it can only be achieved at the expense of the entire Bayman population. When it is discovered that Peter tipped off his spiritual mentors, thus allowing them to prepare for and repel the attack of the Short Tails, Pearly vows to kill Peter for his betrayal.

Much of the remainder of "Winter Tale" concentrates on the pursuit of Peter Lake by Pearly and the Short Tails. With the appearance of Athansor, who spirits Peter away from almost certain death at the hands of the Short Tails, the tale assumes mythical dimensions. As Athansor easily escapes, with strides stretching whole city blocks, we are immediately made to understand that this is no ordinary story of betrayal and revenge. The battles to be waged are for higher stakes, and before the story is told, they will have transcended the limits of time and space.

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TONIGHT!

From the
Blues Brothers
Movie

MATT
"GUITAR"
MURPHY

And his six-piece
blues and soul band

July 10th 9-1:00 \$3 cover



THE
ZOO BAR
136 N. 14th