

# Play to open at Howell

By Lisa Renner  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

"Mass Appeal," a two-act play with Rex McGraw and David Landis, will open Friday at Howell theater as a benefit for the UNL theater department's scholarship fund.

The play explores the relationship between an older priest and a young seminarian, and the effect the two have on each other. Through the course of the play, Rev. Farley (McGraw) teaches Mark Dolson (Landis) the tact and survival necessary in the world, while the young man brings renewed spirit and passion to the priest's life and work.

"Mass Appeal" originally opened in Omaha at a dinner theater where it received "glowing reviews," said Pat Overton, UNL theater manager. She said the theater department is taking advantage of a good show that McGraw and Landis already have performed by doing the play as a benefit. Not all departments can generate programs to raise money, and since the theater department can, they'll use it, she said. All proceeds will go to the scholarship fund at UNL.

Because the money goes to graduate students, "Mass Appeal" was organized, directed, and supported by the grad students themselves.

The production at Howell will vary from the show in Omaha. A new set, costumes and direction will bring a different approach and a chance to try new things. Chris Wineman, director, said he thinks "Mass Appeal" is the ideal play because McGraw and Landis nearly direct themselves.

Although things have been hectic, and at times maddening — working around schedules and the new semester — everyone involved is excited and hopes that the benefit will be a success and will raise money for the students.

"Mass Appeal" will play Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and also Sept. 6 through 8. Tickets cost \$4.



Dan Dulpney/Daily Nebraskan

Rex McGraw as Father Farley (right) discusses a sermon during rehearsal with David Landis, who portrays seminarian Mark Dolson in the UNL theater department's production of "Mass Appeal."

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