

Arts & Entertainment

Play takes candid look at men's emotions

Review by Lisa Renner
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

At times relationships are worse than cliches. "The Men's Room," an original drama of the sexes presented by the Nebraska Playwright's Project, takes a candid look at relationships, exploring men's emotions and interactions with women.

Written by Thomas Dowell, Marc Gabriel, Chuck Jagoda and Jonathon Ondov, the play is about four men — Chuck, Jon, Tom and Mark — (sound familiar?) who share their feelings and experiences in a series of vignettes.

The script is clever and modern. It confronts issues — communication, sex, expectations and needs — which are often overlooked.

In the play, Chuck, Tom, Marc and Jon are in a bar sharing personal experiences that are retold and acted out in another scene to illustrate the emotions of the experiences.

At times the play seems scattered because the fragments are varied and often unusual. But by the end of the play, the characters' emotions have been described and their roles come together.

Because the play is seen in fragments, the portrayal of characters had to be clear and strong. Although the acting was good and the play well worth seeing, roles occasionally were over dramatic and exaggerated. Given the context of the vignettes, this was not always a bad thing. However, the play comes off as being slightly unpolished and more like an impromptu skit than a full-scale production.

It is easy for the audience to find a bit of themselves acted out on stage. Obviously, this is the intention and perhaps the strength of the play. But often the raw look at human nature is unsettling.

In a vignette called "Ravages," a man attempts to please a woman by making himself out to be some-

thing he's not. He unsuccessfully guesses what role he should take and the result is a bitter realization of unmet expectations and delusions. Amy Thone and Jon Ondov portray the characters and both give good performances.

In a delightful vignette called "Joni Mitchell Stole Your What?," Gigi Guerin and Chuck Jagoda play two people who meet as a result of Chuck's advances. In the sketch the girl thinks that Joni Mitchell has stolen her voice and is now after her life. It is the highlight of the play and a welcome comic relief.

Other cast members include Ben Miller, Dan Clinard, Steve Johnson, Virginia Ellis, Cynthia Morgan Munger, Mary Samson, Ann Segal, Kathy Gruber and Nikki Brink. "The Men's Room" plays in the Old City Hall at 9th and O streets Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 4 and 6 through 8 at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$4 for UNL students with an I.D. and \$5 for the general public.



Dan Dulaney/Daily Nebraskan

Cynthia Morgan Munger and Charles Jagoda in "The Men's Room."

WHAT WASN'T REVEALED IN "10" IS REVEALED IN

Bullero

An Adventure With Bulls in Drag

STARTS FRIDAY! Due To The Adult Nature Of This Film No Calves Will Be Admitted R

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BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed

ON WILBUR! MAYBE THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR ME.

YES, MR. JACKSON?

I'D LIKE YOU TO GIVE HALF OF ALL MY POUCH TO THE GOVERNMENT. I HEAR THEY COULD USE A FEW BACKS.

MR. JACKSON, I DON'T--

AND TAKE THE OTHER HALF AND BUY SEVERAL THOUSAND TONS OF SMOKED FRENCH SARDINES AND DELIVER THEM TO THE RESIDENCE OF A MR. OPUS HERE IN TOWN.

MR. JACKSON, ARE YOU KIDDING WITH ME?

AND WILBUR, I'D LIKE TO SEE A FEW SEQUINS ON THOSE SOCKS NEXT TIME.

ABANDON ALL HOPE YE WHO ENTER HERE.

"I'M DROPPING THIS CLASS."

Hill

BLOOM COUNTY by Berke Breathed

YOU'RE LATE COMING IN FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD! GO! QUICK! SHOWTIME! HIT THE STAGE! DON'T FORGET THE MAGIC GLOVE!!

THANK YOU, MY LITTLE FRIEND!

FAREWELL DANCING PRINCE! MAY YOUR JOCKEY BRIEFS FOREVER SPARKLE! GIVE MY BEST TO BROOKE!

FAREWELL!

AND WILBUR! GIVE MY BEST TO YOUR ACCOUNTANT, WILBUR!

GOD-BYE!

AND YOUR BROTHERS! RANDY, MARLON, JACKIE, GERANIUM AND FRITO!

TAKE OFF!

YUKS by Billy Shaffer

WARNING! TO ALL Freshmen Planning On Drinking IN BARS...

THIS CARD DOES NOT WORK!

Classmate
LET OUT OF JAIL FREE

DO NOT BUY THEM FROM UPPERCLASSMEN!