

Kimball performance questions reality

By Mona Z. Koppelman
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

Hundreds of playwrights for hundreds of years must have fantasized about breathing life into lifeless characters — creating human form from paper as Adam was supposed to have been created from clay.

Luigi Pirandello fulfilled this fantasy in his play *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, performed by the American Repertory Theatre Sunday night and tonight at Kimball Hall. *Six Characters* is two plays performed at the same time. First, it is the story of six characters who were created by an author who never finished their play. They wander about, seeking a new author who will complete their story.

These characters show up on the stage at Kimball, as the repertory cast "rehearses" for Sgnarelle (which actually will be performed by the company Tuesday at 8 p.m.)

The characters convince members of the company to watch their story. The second play in *Six Characters*, then, is the "play in the making" — the characters' unfinished play.

Both plays center on the sub-

jectivity of reality. First, reality for the company actors, whom the audience naturally identifies with. We learn their names (Jack, Tony, Diane, and so on); they talk about Horsefeathers, tell Oklahoma jokes — they even mentioned the Husker's loss Saturday to Syracuse.

Well, that was almost going too far. After all, I don't think even the friendliest cast would learn that much about Nebraskans while on a short tour date. But it was flattering.

The actors — and the audience — are at first a bit befuddled by the appearance of six men and women dressed in stark blacks and whites — perhaps symbolizing inked words on paper.

But once convinced of the possibilities of the characters' tragic tale — with hints of incest and brutality — curiosity overwhelms common sense, and we enter a reality far from the smokey rooms of Lincoln bars and the hot lights of the stage.

We enter the reality of the characters' world. A world that never changes, because it is locked in an unfinished script.

"We are trapped in an eternal reality," the Father character shouts.

And suddenly the "tragic" suffering of the characters is thrown into abrupt focus. Their reality never changes because they haven't the power to change their script.

The company, of course, can change the script. But more importantly, they have the power to change their lives, their fates, by will and choice.

Reality for living, breathing humans changes day by day, hour by hour — because of will and choice.

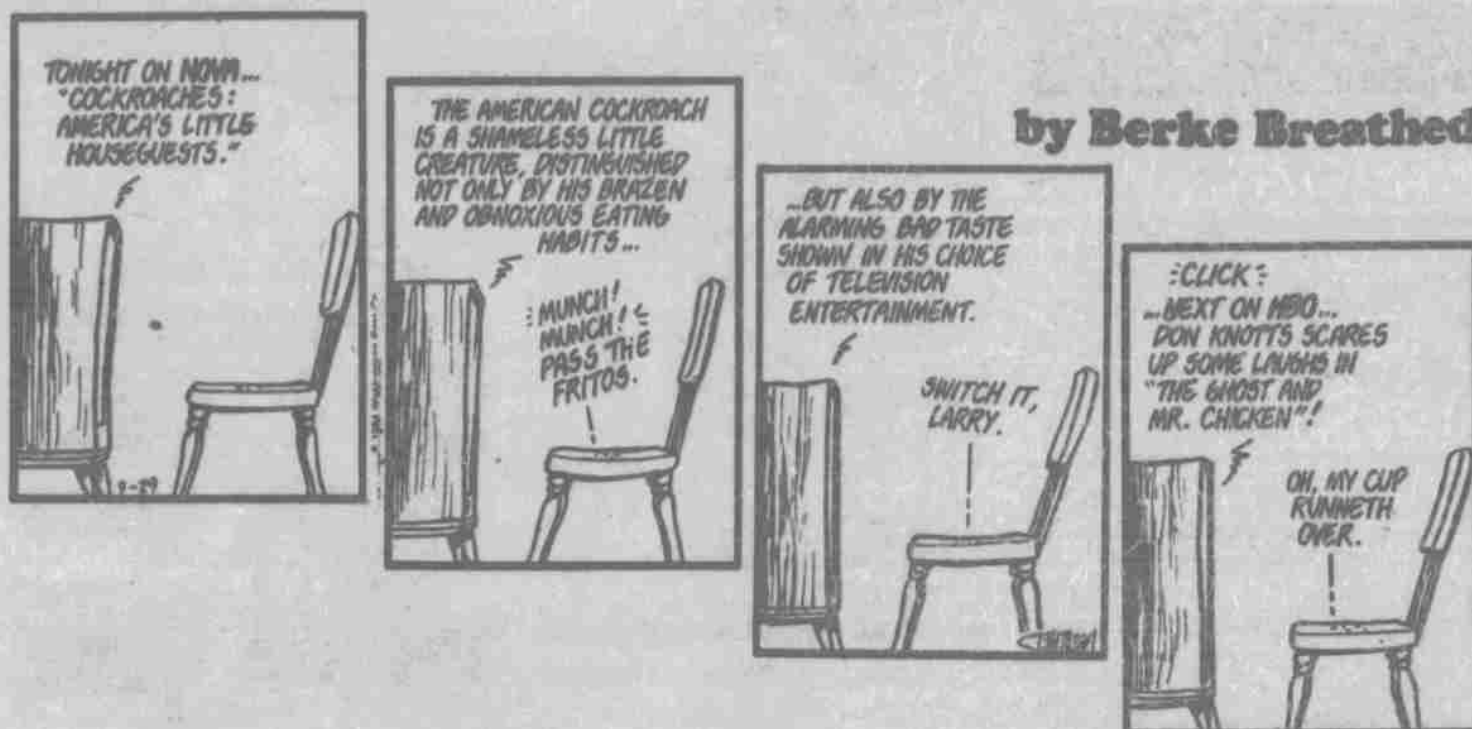
After a chaotic and powerful dramatic conclusion to both plays — the characters' search for an author and the characters' play, we are still left with questions unanswered. Some loom above the rest:

Whose reality has more truth: literary reality that cannot change, or human reality that changes by free choice?

And...do we have the power of choice? Or is there a Master Playwright with an unfinished script somewhere, trapping us in an eternal reality.

Rod Serling, take it away...

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Steve Martin

'All of Me' may be comic classic

Review By
Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Staff Editor

If you have no reason to see "All of Me," at the State Theatre, consider these:

It is Steve Martin's best picture to date. This is the one critics and fans thought Steve Martin could make during those days he was the hottest stand-up comic in the country.

If you don't particularly care for Martin, then this is also Lily Tomlin's best movie ever. Even though she is off-screen a lot, Tomlin comes off the comedienne so familiar from television, rather than the snotty, boring characters she has chosen for movie roles.

It is also the year's best mature comedy, not so much because of the story, but because of the actors. A few scenes are so rare and funny that this might be the first film in who knows how many years to set a comic classic along the lines of "Who's on first?" or the cabin scene from the Marx brothers.

"All of Me" is also a love story, a mysticism story and a freak show all rolled into one and kept on a bright ingenious

course by Carl Reiner and Martin. The two have collaborated three times before, with only mediocre results. (Though their latest, "The Man With Two Brains" got a pretty raw deal.)

"All of Me" is perhaps the ultimate vehicle for Martin because the dual role with Tomlin calls for a throw-caution-to-the-wind approach on physical comedy, all of which he's really done before but ended up looking out of place.

Martin plays Roger Cobb, a unhappy lawyer who is trying to deny the fact that he really wants to play guitar in a struggling jazz band. Cobb gets a last chance from his boss to become a partner in the law firm by handling the estate of Edwina Cutwater (Tomlin), a dying eccentric. However, when Cobb arrives to talk shop with Cutwater, he finds that the millionaire, an invalid since teen years, has decided to leave her fortunes to a farmhand's daughter. The daughter (Victoria Tennant) has agreed to let an Eastern guru transfer Cutwater's departed spirit to her body, leaving the daughter's body to travel beyond.

Martin and his boss think

the whole thing is bananas, but when the urn containing Cutwater's spirit is accidentally shoved out a window and lands on Cobb's head, Cutwater's spirit is accidentally transferred to Cobb's body.

With Cutwater on the left and Cobb on the right, the first of the movie's memorable scenes take place when Martin tries to walk back into the law building. The second is shortly afterward when Martin tries to go to the bathroom. The third comes later on in the courtroom when Cutwater, recognizing a sensible wrong, argues against Cobb's client while Cobb tries to argue for him.

Meanwhile, both try to search for the guru to redo the transfer while the daughter, who has since changed her mind, tries to block it.

Actually, since it doesn't make sense to have an unhappy ending, it doesn't take much to figure out what Martin and the guru will do to get Cutwater's spirit transferred. Still, this is hardly the kind of thing that ruins the movie. If you've given up on Martin or Tomlin, take this one last chance. Chances are you won't regret it.

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for rent

Rooms available this semester and next — Cornhusker Co-op, 705 N. 23rd. Call 474-6772 between 4 and 6 or on weekends.

15 PASSENGER VANS
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Help wanted with Love Library shift project. Four part-time positions, three needed to work 8 a.m. to 12 noon and one needed to work 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. Work requires heavy lifting and moving. Apply Room 108, Love Library between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Student Programmer, Apple Computers, Basic, Pascal. Football Weightroom. Mike 472-3333.

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Telephone Solicitors: Work for national charity organization calling for household discards. Our solicitors recently received a 50% raise. Send resume to 1745 "O" St.

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Keyboard player needed for established Top 40 band. Experience necessary. Vocals helpful. Weekend gigs. 435-8898, 464-2753.

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Looking for meaningful work? Environmentalists join NEBRASKA WATER CONSERVATION COUNCIL's campaign for protection of ground water quality. Will train, travel and career opportunity. Call 475-2090.

VALET PARKING ATTENDANT
Must be at least 24 with good driving record. Apply to Joe at Brittain's, 227 North 9th St.

wanted

WANTED: 4 tickets for NU-Iowa St. Game. Preferably together. Call 466-0181 after 5 P.M.

2 G.A. tickets to Missouri game. Call Jean 472-9540 after 8.

LOOKING FOR CHICAGO TICKETS
Good seats. 435-7725

Pair of tickets to NU-OSU game. 474-0862.

One pair of couples football tickets for the Missouri game. Call David at 472-0035.

8 tickets to Oklahoma State. Prefer seats together or in pairs. Call 476-3046.

Will trade female for male ticket, remainder of season. 423-0332.

roommate

2 non-smoking, liberal-minded female roommates to share a 3-bedroom newer home in southeast Lincoln. \$250 plus 1/3 utilities. Call Gayle at 423-2145 anytime.

Female to share nice 2-bedroom w/fireplace. \$170 plus utilities. 474-0852.

personals

America
Get well soon.

Love Rocky

Boo-Boo Honey:
Remember:
ALL summer
Chicago and the 2 rooms,
our first date,
slasher movies,
famous firsts,
and of course spinal classes
Happy 7 months! You're "the best".
Love, Your "cute little woman"

Mrs. M.C.
—Oh Baby 10
—Super Dave
—O.T.
—Drowned Rat
—Are we hired yet?
—Add Water
—This bathtub moves
—bruises

Mrs. O.T.

Wanted:
2 attractive, experienced, healthy, vibrant men to go on our great escape to the Florida beaches. Must drink heavily, R.S.V.P. by personal.
On a mission to L.O.V.
MIKI

Chuckles (aka: U-Bengi Upe).
Congratulations on finally becoming an active.
Love,
Kathy, Dawn, Kim

Kathleen (T.C.)
Being born on the 1st is good; But being first in our family is great! Happy 22nd!
Love, Lauri & Gloria

Get ready for Jim Y's Woodchopper's Ball!

Jean.
You deserve a guy like me!

Jeff