

Arts & Entertainment

Stage set for laughs



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

The cast of "Table Manners."

By John Lechner
Theater Critic

Nebraska Director's Theatre, located at 1110 'Q' in Lincoln, presents its second production of the season this weekend. Alan Ayckbourn's comedy "Table Manners" is part of his trilogy "The Norman Conquests." The play debuted in London in the mid-'70s and played on Broadway in 1977. This production gives Lincoln audiences the chance to see one of the best efforts from one of England's favorite playwrights.

"Table Manners" is a 'family' show in that it's about a family, but it's relation to "The Brady Bunch" stops there. This family is brought together for the weekend by less-than-savory circumstances, and the troubles and hilarity flow from there. If you've considered taking your children for a night of theatre, don't bring them to this show!

Director Sue Conover, a UNL PhD candidate, said she chose to direct this show for several reasons; she "loves comedy," because the characters were so familiar, and because it was easy to adapt to present-day Lincoln, where it is set for this production.

"Not only are the characters familiar to me," Conover said, "but to anyone who has been brought up in a family."

Although the situation that brings these people together for the weekend may not be one that all of us are intimately familiar with, she said but she thinks the audience will relate strongly to the interaction of the play's characters. "It lets us laugh at ourselves," she said.

The director and cast members said they have been surprised and amused at the similarities between their characters and members of their own families. And that they said has helped to make working on the show enjoyable for them.

Conover said "The cast was a joy to work with because of their professionalism and because of their enthusiasm for the show and its characters. Also, they're all UNL students with a great interest in the arts.

"And they're all from families," she said.

Featured in the cast are Amy Thone, Mary S. Strecker, Delia Booth, Robert N. Jackson, Frederick J. Rubeck and Michael Pearl.

Conover said the biggest chal-

lenge in directing the show, since it's not full of heavy hidden meanings, was pulling together all the physical action and props.

For instance, "the characters are constantly eating," she said, noting that stage manager and assistant director Amy Gaston has been a Godsend to the cast. Her job is harder than that of a mother, she said, coordinating no less than four meals in two hours for several nights running, in addition to all the other props needed.

NDT has had some problems in the past with the audience being able to see all the action on stage, but that has been corrected for this production by the use of alley staging. This technique features audience seating on two opposite sides of the playing space, giving all audience members a clear and intimate view of the action.

"Table Manners" opens this Friday, June 14 and runs through Sunday, June 16. Curtain time is at 8:00 p.m. all nights. Tickets can be purchased the night of the show at the theater box office, located at 1110 'Q'. Prices are \$3 for students and senior citizens and \$4 for general admission.

Chase's wacky humor makes "Fletch" a hit

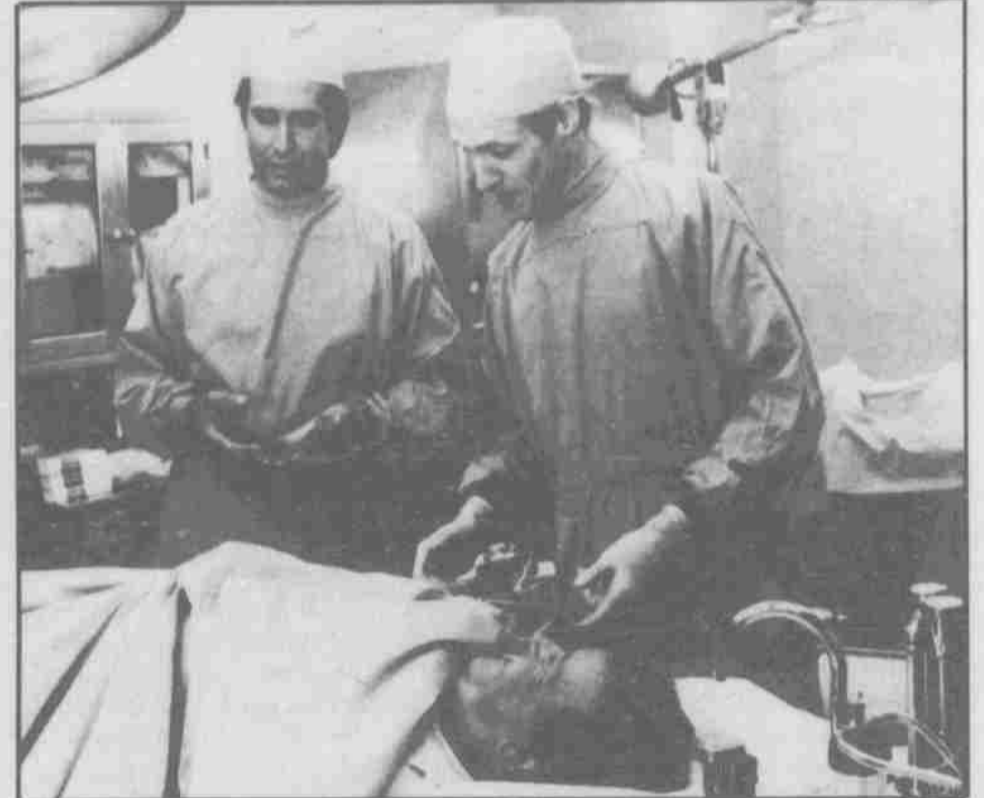


Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures

Chase disguised as a doctor in "Fletch."

By Julie Liska
Staff Reporter

Don't miss "Fletch," now playing at the Stuart Theatre.

"Fletch" is one of those rare movies that is funny, yet has a plot that really holds the audience's interest. The film stars Chevy Chase, as I.M. Fletcher, a wise-cracking, undefeatable reporter/sleuth. While masquerading as a beach bum in order to break a drug dealing story, Fletcher is approached by Alan Stanwyk (Tim Matheson), a successful aviation executive.

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Stanwyk offers Fletcher a unique murder plan that seemed foolproof. However, the victim of the murder is most unusual. Fletcher seemingly accepts the job, temporarily abandoning his drug-related story. However, further investigation on Stanwyk, leads Fletcher back to the beach again.

Through it all, Fletcher maintains an amazingly dry wit and clever comebacks. No matter what tight pinch or seemingly irretrievable situation the film's hero finds himself in he deals with it in a most clever way. His barrage of one-liners and a face which remains largely expressionless makes the man a hit in himself.

Another added twist to the movie is Fletcher's multi-faceted costumes. In the course of the film, he disguises himself as a wide variety of wacky characters to aid in his detective exploits. Among these are a doctor, an airplane mechanic, and a patient (at which time he receives a very thorough examination). He also treats himself to escapist fantasies that put him at the receiving end of pass from basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, scoring the game-winning basket at the buzzer. All of Fletcher's exploits, however far-fetched, or hilarious, are all handled in good taste, making this a family film.

Chase's previous films were "National Lampoon's Vacation," "Deal of the Century," "Foul Play," and "Caddyshack" and he was an original member of television's "Saturday Night Live."

Fine Arts students experience All-state

By Laura Hansen
Staff Reporter

For nearly fifty years young artists, musicians, dancers, actors and actresses congregate on UNL campus every summer for the All-State Fine Arts Program.

This year's program started Sunday and runs through Friday June 21. Most of the participants will stay in Schramm Hall during their visit to Lincoln.

Ray Miller, UNL music professor and program director said that All-State "was created to help Nebraska high school students realize and increase their artistic potential through an intensive study in art, dance, music and theater."

All-State offers opportunities they may not have had in high school, Allen Sehaben, a participant from Seward said. Sehaben said after his first year at All-State his "drumming has turned around." Allen the captain drummer in Seward said that UNL Music professor Al Rometo taught him "all kinds of stuff I didn't know."

"There are no true drum teachers in Seward," Sehaben said. Although Sehaben said that the teachers and atmosphere were great he did admit

that the "funnest part of All-State is the women."

Beth Brader, a second-time counselor with All-State and a senior music major said that she assists the program because it is "fun and neat to see the students learning."

Brader said that one of the strong points of the All-State program is that it helps the students familiarize themselves with the UNL campus and faculty. She said it helps them to understand what is expected of them once they get to college.

Also, it is a good experience for students to study under professionals, she said.

All-State offers several free concerts at Westbrook during its time here. Brader said that the students appreciate an audience at their recitals and that the recitals offer a wide variety of fine arts.

On Friday June 14th and Monday June 17 the All-Staters are in recital at 7:30 p.m. in Westbrook. The final show, which starts in the Sheldon Gardens at 6:00 p.m. will be Friday June 21.

There will be a concert almost every night during All-State. Interested persons can contact the Westbrook office for more information.