

Student's tragic play captivates audience

By Lise Olsen
Senior Reporter

"A Stones Throw," the current UNL theater production, is a disconcerting, yet riveting, original play.

The production stars junior theater major Jay Thornton as Dillion, the young boy whose love for his sister and fearful respect for others rules and nearly ruins his life.

Thornton, the youngest member of the cast, is very convincing as the love-struck, innocent Dillion. His efforts, as unimaginable and surrealistic as the character, makes Dillion the most appealing of the play's tragic figures.

Theater Review

Nancy Marcy as Elfreda, Dillion's beloved sister, also turns in an impressive performance. Elfreda's middle-aged, youthful innocence coupled with her tragic deterioration and loss of hope are convincingly interpreted by Marcy, an MFA candidate.

The set design for the play, a junk-filled old house on the outskirts of Anytown, brilliantly sets the stage for the play. Designer Thomas Umfrid, assistant professor of theater arts, deserves special commendation.

The chaotic clutteredness of the house lends itself well to the strange goings-on inside.

The total of all the cast and crew efforts make the play effective. The bizarre events, and strange and philosophical dialogue fascinated me and seemed to captivate the rest of the audience.

Although the play's subject matter could be considered controversial, no one in the audience left the performance during the on-stage operation called a "cleansing" or during any of the discussions or suggestions of an implied incestuous, yet not necessarily immoral love affair.

Instead, many theater goers seemed determined from the very first scene to find out just how this play could get any stranger.

It always did. Just when the weird-

ness reached a seeming climax, some other undercurrent would lift its surprising head.

The play is full of surprises, difficult thoughts and strange scenes. It commands attention and respect, and it entertains. There are some good laughs, not entirely eclipsed by the play's tragedy.

An example is the bizarre explanation of why Tully, the family's appointed "saintly" older brother, left the university after 17 years.

This production seems to foreshadow future greatness for its playwright David Boles, a junior UNL English major.

There were only a few difficulties on the opening night performance.

Cynthia Totten, a doctoral candidate was convincing as Mamma Love, a role which borders perilously on hysterical disgust and melodrama. She and Mister Nettles, played by MFA student Brent Shawl, seemed to stumble a little with lines and character definition. But, I suppose the lack of identity could have been intentional.

Trouble-making older brother Tully, played Kevin Hofeditz, an assistant professor of theater arts and dance, is convincingly obnoxious.

Yet Thornton and Marcy's excellent performances seemed to overshadow theater cast members' efforts.

Overall, however, the cast does a good job in bringing to life the bizarre outcasts created by Boles.

As Boles said in a recent interview, his play can be interpreted on many different levels. It can be interpreted intellectually, emotionally or philosophically. But it cannot easily be ignored.

The play, as Boles says, is about individual rights and what happens when those rights are violated — when too many stones shatter too many dreams.

The play is effective, thought-provoking and interesting on many different levels. "Stones Throw" audiences should expect almost anything to happen because it often does.

The production performances continue Monday through Saturday at 8 p.m. in the third floor studio theater at the Temple Building.

Tickets are available from the theater box office.

Jaycees run haunted house

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"It depends on how people perceive it — how they were brought up and what kind of imagination they have," he said.

Shuster said even he has been spooked by strange noises and co-workers while he was repairing scenes alone.

Yet, Shuster said, his 4-year-old daughter isn't afraid of the chamber.

"She knows it's just play-acting...she's grown up with the haunted house," he

said. Chamber of Terror will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m. weeknights, and to midnight weekends. Admission is \$2.50.

Pet show tonight

Responsibilities of pet owners and the costs involved in purchasing and caring for house pets will be some of the topics discussed during "Nebraskans ask: the pet advisor," which airs tonight at 9 p.m. on the Nebraska ETV Network.

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