

Arts & Entertainment



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Formal cocktail gowns that feature cord-draping will be on display at Duran Knutzen's exhibit and style show.

'Exhibition of Style' Knutzen's farewell

By Scott Harrah
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Innovative local art and fashion will be in the spotlight at Tooth's Gallery, 905 O St., this week. The show, "Exhibition of Style," will feature the art of Janine Al-Bayati and Barry Schutz, and the cutting-edge clothing designs of Lincoln fashion guru Duran Knutzen.

The exhibit, which premiered yesterday, will run through Saturday. Al-Bayati's works include cartoons and

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—Knutzen

paintings done in both oil and crayon; Schutz will display original works of Raku pottery and various oil paintings.

Duran Knutzen, an up-and-coming clothing designer who markets his styles in Lincoln and New York's chic garment district, will end the exhibit with a style show Saturday evening at 7 and 9 p.m.

The show will be Knutzen's last in the Midwest. Knutzen, who spent last summer in New York's Greenwich Village, is currently doing business with

Contrast Marketing, an upscale-Manhattan fashion outlet. Some of his pieces are being sold at the East Village boutique Reprieve, which sells styles designed by such eminent couturiers as Bodymap, Dorothy Bis and numerous young designers from London and Paris.

Knutzen will be moving back to Manhattan in January to sell his spring and summer collection, he said.

Saturday's show will display the following new lines by Knutzen:

- "Urchinwear," a collection of "dust catching" shirts and "shirt skirts."

- "The Squeegie Family," a collection of brightly colored outfits with pockets that are pulled up from the hemlines.

- "Strange Brew," a collection of abstract woven pieces made of gauze with "panels of dusk, darkness and mystery," Knutzen said.

Other new lines include "The Premiere Business Collection," "Formal Cocktail Wear" and "The Haute Couture Collection."

The show will place an emphasis on style, not fashion, Knutzen said.

"I design styles, not fashions," he said. "I am a fashion designer simply because my clothes are worn by people."

Knutzen, who is known for his gender-blending, progressive design is also planning to show a collection of clothes described as "industrialized pompadour." The clothes get their inspiration from the turn of the century, he said.

"Exhibition of Style" is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Saturday. Tickets for Knutzen's "Style Show" are \$2 and \$5 for the 7 p.m. show and \$2.50 and \$5 for the 9 p.m. show. Table seats are \$10. Call 489-4303 to reserve tickets.

Among the poets in Yalta

Play brings literary legends of the last century to life

By Ken DiMaggio
Staff Reviewer

In the University Theatre production of Jeffrey Haddow's and John Driver's play, "Chekhov in Yalta," three famous Russian authors try to write the best description of the sea. The suave and aristocratic Ivan Bunin (best known for his short story, "The Gentleman from San Francisco") describes the sea as being a "veil of Life's tears" ebbing on an "opalescent" table. The fervent

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and political Maxim Gorky, (famous for his novel "Mother" and his play "The Lower Depths") describes the sea as a calm surface and a hidden, brewing storm inside. When it is the playwright Chekhov's turn, he smiles, picks up his little black notebook and reads: "The sea is huge. I carry it with me as a reminder to write simply."

Such was Chekhov's genius. He wrote without being elaborate or didactic. But neither was his dialogue without poetry or bite. Non sequiturs replaced soliloquies; reflective fragmented thoughts replaced harangues.

McGraw as Magoo?

As the playwright who wrote "The Three Sisters," "The Cherry Orchard" and "Uncle Vanya," Rex McGraw creates a character that at times becomes simple minded. He punctuates his lines with short, feeble giggles. His face is molded into a bubbly Mr. Magoo-like smile.

In act two McGraw discards this Walt-Disney innocence and develops a character aware of the brief time he has left before he dies of consumption. Bruce Tinker as Ivan Bunin creates a graceful and distinct character. His entrances, exits and poses were always slightly asymmetrical. He cut a strong visual presence on stage. William Trotter was boisterous as Maxim Gorky. But his acting was precise and controlled in portraying a very heated and turbulent character. But it was Devon Schumacher as the flamboyant Konstantin Stanislavsky that gave the show theatricality and color. Dressed in a long-tailed tuxedo, red cummerbund and red-checked bow tie, Schumacher cut a dandyish figure. His peroxide-blond hair and black waxed mustache marked him as the temperamental impresario of the Moscow Art Theatre.

Tension and conflict

The arrival of the Moscow Art Theatre troupe provides the tension and conflict in Haddow and Driver's play, which is mostly made up of loosely strung anecdotes. Stanislavsky and his partner, Nemirovich-Danchenko, want Chekhov's newest play, "The Three Sisters," for their theater. In between the haggling come several bittersweet romances



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Connie Layton (left) and Susan Oltmanns in a scene from "Chekhov in Yalta," which will be part of the Nebraska Theatre Festival at UNO Saturday.

involving Chekhov and the Moscow Art Theatre's leading actress, Olga Knipper; Nemirovich-Danchenko and Stanislavsky's wife, Lillian; and Bunin and Chekhov's sister Masha. The delightful surprise of the show was Cynthia Totten as Masha. In act one, Masha follows her famous brother around like a hen pecking mother telling him not to smoke or stay up late. She is so shy and insecure about revealing her love for Bunin that she implores Knipper to act as her go-between. In act two, Masha acts upon her own proposal and boldly declares her love to him. And in so doing, Totten creates the most invigorating performance in the show. One moment she's on her knees begging Bunin to marry her, the next she's dragging him towards her while he tries to pull away. In this scene, the cub becomes the tiger.

Students direct

"Chekhov in Yalta," was directed by seven advanced student directors under McGraw's guidance. The different talents and styles seemed to blend easily and created a fast-paced, energetic show.

Nancy Nicoll's costumes gave the production a strong sense of texture. Gorky's white peasant smock with red-embroidered sleeves and collar nicely underscored his tough seasoned exterior. Nicoll was able to create a wide range of shades and tones out of gray formal attire worn by the actors.

Ed Stauffer's lighting did the same in providing a variety of tones and shades within a small space. Paul Leitner's weathered set showed good creative judgment in design and execution. His railings, arm-chairs and end tables were wrapped around a large open area that amplified the limited arena stage of the Studio Theatre.

Editor's note: Due to a decrease in our review staff and space limitations, the DN arts and entertainment section was unable to publish a review of "Chekhov in Yalta" before it closed. However, the play will be included in the Nebraska Theatre Festival at UNO Saturday at 8 p.m. Call the UNO University Theatre box office at 554-2335 for reservations.

State of the Arts

By Stew Magnuson
Staff Reporter

Movie:

"El Norte," a beautiful, sad movie about Guatemalan refugees trying to survive as illegal immigrants in the United States shows tonight at 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. The video presentation is sponsored by LASCO and is free of charge. The room will be posted. This movie is highly recommended.

ON TV:

Two interesting flicks are on tonight. "Blazing Saddles," the classic send-up

of westerns, is on WGN, channel 2 on cable, at 7 p.m. The original "Kung Fu" made-for-TV movie will show at 1:15 a.m. on WTBS, channel 4. Kane will say such remarkable things as "I do not know." Listen for such famous last lines as "Ah heck, that Chinaman can't kick me with handcuffs on."

Music:

Bad news for the multitudes who were waiting for the Brave Combo show tonight at the Zoo. They cancelled. In their place, the Omaha-based rock/tango/funk/Cajun band Voojoo Club will play. Cover will be \$1.50. At The Drum-

stick, Lincoln-Kearney-based noise-makers Necktie Party will play along with Porcelain Mudslide. Cover for these two bands is only \$1.

If you know of an event you would like us to announce, send press information to:

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