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#### Hofeditz thrills crowds with Sweeney Todd'



### Department

thrives in personal touch

Daily Nebraskan

THEATER from Page 7

and set and costume design. They also participate in productions, she

Although she said she wasn't certain of the departments' ranking in comparison with other schools, Stauffer said the program offered to UNL students is unique.
Unlike those found at larger

schools, the program at UNL is "veiy personal," she said. Because of the small number of students enrolled in the program, students are able to get independent feedback from faculty members, she said. At larger schools, she said, it's much more difficult, if not impossible, for faculty to devote personalized attention to students because there are so many students to teach.

Both the undergraduate and graduate programs have increased, Stauffer said. When asked for exact figures, she said she wasn't certain Enrollment, especially among graduate students, changes drastically from year to year, she said.

Ninety percent of undergradu-ate students are from Nebraska, while most graduate students are from out-of-state, Stauffer said. UNL students aren't usually accepted into the program, she said, because "after four years we expect students to get the full benefit of our expertise.

After graduation, Stauffer said students teach, audition for films and play productions in larger metropolitan areas such as New York and Los Angeles, or try their hands at play writing or set design-ing. Stauffer said she's seen alumni acting in small parts in films, but she was uncertain of their names. There's a good success ratio among UNL theater department graduates, she said, but, as yet, no one has succeeded overnight.

Students take their work very seriously in the theater department, Stauffer said.

"Students following our program don't think of their efforts as a diversion, but as a career," she said

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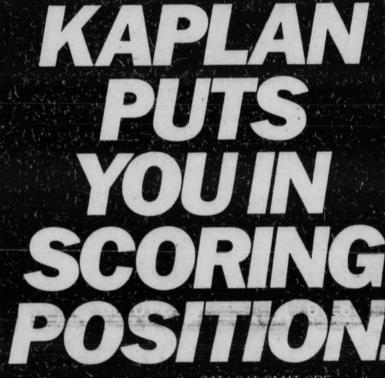
#### STAFF EDITORIAL POSITIONS

The Spring Daily Nebraskan needs general news reporters, arts and entertainment reporters, sports reporters, staff photographers, copy editors, artists and graphics artists.

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## Nebraskan

(Applicants must be UNL students during the Spring 1989 semester) UNL does not discriminate in its academic, admissions or employment programs and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to



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# Director has plans for 'big turnaround' in Scrooge

"A Christmas Carol," Charles Dickens' Christmas classic, is a story that has in many ways become a tradition as much as it is a piece of literature. As a play its productions have likely numbered in the millions; it has often made its way onto

our vocabulary. And yet huge numbers of people still go to see it

every year. So why is this such a popular play? Is it simply the combination of one of the most popular writers of all time with the king of all holidays?
According to Albert Pertalion,

Chairman of Theater Arts and with the character of Scrooge, Per-Dance at UNL and director of this talion said. They try to make him question, what you're really asking is "Why is Dickens so popular?"

And, Pertalion said, he's never have adequately explained it to him, although he does have some

script of many sit-coms.

Almost everyone knows the story, and words like "scrooge" have even worked their manual story, he said.

"Everybody in the audience identifies with someone up on the stage," he said of productions of "A Christmas Carol."

Dielectors of the audience identifies with someone up on the stage, he said of productions of "A Christmas Carol."

Dickens is a great writer, he said, of my show," he said. because he presents people with clean, clear characters.

sal motives," Pertalion said.

come such a Christmas tradition has

year's UNL production of "A Christ-mas Carol," when you ask that by commenting on the character as they are playing it, he said. Pertalion said that he wants his

Scrooge to be a "curmudgeony, seen or heard any arguments that pain in the ass, stinky bastard." He wants his play to show the "big turnaround" that is part of the origi-

This is the third time that Pertalion has directed the play, and "He had the will to find charac- each time he has used an adaptaters and clear motives, and univer- tion by Barbara Fields, which was originally commissioned by the The fact that the story has be- Guthrie Foundation, he said.

"There must be 35 to 40 adapta led many people to "play around" tions around, and its almost dumb not to do your own," Pertalion said. By the time the play actually runs, it will have almost as much of his own stuff as it has Fields', he said. "I go back to the novel all the

time, and I try to use Dickens' words as much as possible," he said.
This production will also feature some music and a dance not found

in Fields' adaptation, Pertalion said. Preparations for the play started November 1, and official rehearsal lasts four hours per night, Pertalion said. He said that many outside

hours are also spent by those in-volved with the production.

The cast, made up of predomi-nantly UNL students, features Devon Schumacher as Scrooge, John Barber as Charles Dickens, Hanna as Bob Cratchit and Matt Wenzel as Tiny Tim, Pertalion said.

The show opens at Howell Theater on Dec. 1, and will run through Dec. 10.

