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Merideth Morgans, as Charolette, yells at the gay character Bob, played by Don Cook, in a rehearsal for "Beyond Therapy" Tuesday night.

# Couple is "Beyond Therapy" in fall Theatrix season opener



By Anne Steyer Senior Reporter

"Beyond Therapy," a wacky comedy complete with wild therapy sessions, opens the fall season for UNL's Theatrix.

Theatrix is an organization that provides University of Nebraska-Lincoln theater students an opportunity to direct productions-productions that are often times not as mainstream as other UNL theater offerings.

Written by Christopher Durang, and directed by UNL senior Jeanne Long, "Beyond Therapy" looks at the lives of a young couple grap-pling with life and love in therapy. It was a hit off Broadway and went on to success on Broadway.

Julie Hagemeier, a UNL theater arts graduate student and publicist

for the Theatrix board, said the therapy session were "very hysterical" because the couple's therapists needed therapy more than the patients.

"Being from Christopher Durang means that it's a little dif-ferent in its approach," Hagemeier

The story revolves around Bruce (Chris Williford) and Prudence (Lisa Mercer), a couple who meet through the personals. Their already strange relationship is affected even more by their personal insanities, as well as those of their therapists.

Prudence's macho man therapist wants her to become more assertive. Bruce's wacky therapist encouraged him to try the personal ads. Of course, she was completely unaware of his male lover Bob (Don Cook) who was not happy with Bruce's decision to date wom-

How Bruce and Prudence deal with each other - and how they sort it all out - makes up the bulk of the comedy.

Other cast members include: Meredith Morgans, David Koch and Colby Coash,

Performances for "Beyond Therapy" are in Temple Studio 301 at 8 p.m., Oct. 14-16, with an additional performance at 2 p.m. Oct. 16.

Hagemeier said five shows would be produced by Theatrix this semester, beginning with "Beyond Therapy.

Others will be "Accidental Death of an Anarchist," "Both Your Houses," "Antigone" and "Play Strindberg."

Four will be directed by graduate students and the fifth by an undergraduate theater student.

While some of Theatrix's funding comes from the theater department, most of the funding comes from admission charges, Hagemeier said. Theatrix is basically self-sup-

Tickets for all performances are

## Lautrec's artwork featured at Joslyn

sions of Paris' "gay 1890s" are on popular singer-comedian. display at Joslyn Art Museum in

picting the social high life of turn-ofthe-century Parisians.

Some of the famous works on dis-

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec's vi- Bruant," 1892, a forceful portrait of a sociopolitical statement.

Also included in the exhibit, organized and circulated by the San Diego The exhibit, from the Baldwin M. Museum of Art, are several pieces Baldwin Collection, is comprised from Toulouse-Lautrec's "Elles" semostly of figurative lithographs de- ries. The lithographs give candid glimpses of women from Paris brothels in their daily routines.

Apart from the artist's colorful play are 1899's "Jane Avril," a flow-ing representation of a dancer from the infamous Paris club the Moulin of the Gallows," 1893, and "At the Foot the Gallows," 1893, show his dark Rouge, and "Ambassadeurs: Aristide side, edging into the realm of

Joslyn, 2200 Dodge St., also will present a lecture series on the art of Toulous-Lautrec, figurative painting and print workshops and performances by The Omaha Symphony.

The exhibit of 109 paintings, drawings, prints, posters and book illustrations runs through Nov. 28. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children and senior citizens.

Glenn Antonucci

# 'ViraVax' promises much, delivers little



"ViraVax" By Bill Ransom **Ace Science Fiction** 

After co-authoring three books with the late Frank Herbert, "The Jesus Incident," "The Lazarus Effect," and "The Ascension Factor," and writing one novel of his own, "Jaguar," Bill Ransom presents his second solo ef-

"ViraVax" — unfortunately

reflects the fact that Ransom's collaborations with master writer Herbert haven't fully taken hold.

The premise is meaty enough. Stuck away in a Central American jungle, ViraVax carries on genetic and biological research that is too risky—not to mention illegal—to do in the United States. Run by a Christian evangelical concern called the Children of Eden, ViraVax is quietly and gradually breeding a race of mongoloids, for cheap labor and test subjects.

The psychotic in charge of security kills a scientist who learns too much about the inner workings of the lab and then ships off another security operative under a cloud of domestic abuse and mental instability.

However, the exiled Col. Rico Toledo is not so easily beaten and is lured back to ViraVax to be killed because he knows too much.

The problem with the book is not the concept, but rather the way that Ransom seems to underplay the horror of it. A firm carrying out experi-ments seemingly copied from Josef Mengele deserves more than the treatment given it.

Furthermore, the characters just don't ring true. Actions go half-ex-plained, or are sketchily filled in after the fact. And the climax, the inevita-ble destruction of the labs, is unsatis-

fying.
"ViraVax" promises much, but in the end, fails to deliver.

-Sam Kepfield