

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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## Parisian theater group will perform tonight

By Paula Lavigne  
Senior Reporter

"Le théâtre du Grand Siècle arrive à UNL."

"The theater of the Great Century arrives at UNL" with the presentation of Molière's 17th-century comedy "Les Femmes Savantes" at the Howell Theatre tonight.

Sponsored by the Modern Languages Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, "Les Femmes Savantes" will be presented entirely in French by Compagnie Claude Beauclair, a touring theater group from Paris. Russell J. Ganim, a UNL asso-

ciate professor of modern languages and literature, said the comedy was designed to promote French culture.

"The theater is extremely important to French culture," he said. "It's been a social institution since the early 17th century."

Theater has reflected France's intellectual and popular history, he said.

"It's something the French have always cultivated and have taken a lot of pride in."

Molière is one of France's most well-known playwrights. His comedies reflect France's history as

well as theater history in general. "Les Femmes Savantes" tells the story of a mother who wants to marry her daughter to a supposed intellectual and gallant poet. The daughter already has a suitor. Her father supports her, but her mother is outraged.

The mother is a "femme savante," or a woman of education whose cultivation is pretentious. Ganim said the comedy stemmed from the exposition of this pretension in the intellectual circles of high French society.

Only selected scenes from the play will be presented, Ganim said. He said he expected an audience

of French students, faculty and general theatergoers.

Ganim will require attendance from his French poetry and prose and civilization classes. He said his students were supposed to see the importance of the play and its relation to French culture.

"This play was written at a time when French culture was at an influential point in history. It really speaks to the splendor of French drama," he said. "It shows the impact French theater had on intellectual life in the 17th century."

The first act will be presented in 17th-century costume, and the second act will be in modern dress.

The play will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for students and \$10 for the general public.

### Quik Facts

Show: "Les Femmes Savantes"

At: Howell Theater, Temple Building

Time: 7:30 tonight

Tickets: \$10, \$4 for students; available at Howell Theater box office. All seats reserved.



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Brian Benben and Mary Stuart Masterson star as Roger and Penny Henderson, who are trying to solve the "Radioland Murders."

## 'Radioland' should be taken off the air

By Chad Johnson  
Staff Reporter

Most members of the audience would prefer a double date with Mickey and Mallory of "Natural Born Killers" than sit through this one again.

This film reminds the viewer of the way films were made 50 to 60 years ago and why they are not made that way today. Brimming with slapstick and wrought with '30s colloquialisms, the film is a devolutionary process that makes viewers wish the Marx Brothers would return from the grave and put a stop to this madness.

Set in a Chicago radio station in 1939, "Radioland Murders" is the story of radio station WBN's attempt to take to the airwaves and compete as the fourth network.

A series of mysterious occurrences unfold as several members of the staff are systematically bumped off, and it's up to the anti-heroic Brian Benben to put it all together. Mary Stuart Masterson begins the night as the owner's secretary, but she finds herself running the show after the director, station manager and owner all are eliminated.

As Benben searches for clues, the radio show is absolute chaos. The scripts are being readied on a skit-by-skit basis, and numerous technical problems plague the pro-

duction — not to mention the occasional corpse that turns up.

The radio show's writing staff is the one point of the film that deserves some credit. The station's writing team consists of Anne DeSalvo, Peter MacNicol, Harvey Korman, Robert Klein and Bobcat Goldthwaite.

Maybe the film's producers should have turned over the movie's script to that group as well.

A film that could best be described as "Death on the Nile" if it had been directed by Blake Edwards, "Radioland Murders" has numerous continuity flaws and several points where the dreaded glitch award should be given.

For example, in the "climactic" chase scene to the top of the tower, Mary Stuart Masterson's character tells the investigating police lieutenant (Michael Lerner) that her husband Roger (Benben) is afraid of heights. That is odd, because Roger had no problem writing a script while sitting on a ledge earlier in the film.

Neither director Mel Smith ("The Tall Guy") nor cinematographer David Tattersall does anything adventurous. Lighting and pacing are locked into the 1940s style, which does nothing for the audience.

The screenplay is weak and derivative with no elements of suspense or surprise. The original story was conceived by George

### Quik Facts

Movie: "Radioland Murders"

Rating: PG

Stars: Mary Stuart Masterson, Brian Benben, Ned Beatty, Christopher Lloyd

Director: Mel Smith

Grade: D-

Five Words: Someone murdered studio's good judgment

Lucas, and it might have been a good idea, but it was not translated to the screen.

"Radioland Murders" is an exercise in futility for nearly all concerned. The film is an endurance test — and not one that most want to win. The writing is weak, the acting is poor, the story is lame, and the technical aspects are less than polished.

One would expect that a story conceived by George Lucas would have potential for greatness. Not necessarily. Remember "Howard the Duck"?

George, do the public a favor. Do not take us to 1939 in "Radioland." Take us back to a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away.

## People

### Will seals image for animal rights

NEW YORK (AP) — Chrissie Hynde doesn't want death to stop her animal-rights work.

The Pretenders lead singer recently had her will changed to allow the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to "exploit (Hynde's) image after her death in any way PETA sees fit," People magazine reported in its Oct. 31 issue.

In a letter to PETA, Hynde asks the organization to run an ad after her death with her photo and the words, "Dead meat should be buried, not eaten."

Hynde, 43, wanted to make her wishes clear after the families of Kurt Cobain and River Phoenix objected to PETA using their pictures for an anti-fur campaign.

### Another TV star switches to films

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It's going to take more than a starring role in "Radioland Murders" to boost Brian Benben's confidence.

"Truthfully, in terms of everything I've done, I never expect anything to lead to anything else. Because, usually, it hasn't," Benben told the Daily News of Los Angeles.

In the George Lucas-produced farce set in 1939, Benben plays a radio network writer who tries to win back his estranged wife (played by Mary Stuart Masterson).

The 38-year-old actor from HBO's sitcom "Dream On" is the latest television actor to make the jump to films.

### Bush takes shots at Dana Carvey

NEW YORK (AP) — George Bush does a dead-on Dana Carvey.

The former president opened "Saturday Night Live" with a few shots at Carvey's impersonations of him during the Bush years in the White House.

"Do I have any hard feelings about that? Yes I do, and I'll have my revenge when the time is right," Bush joked. "Not now. Wouldn't be prudent at this juncture. But revenge will be mine."

Bush, on tape from his home in Texas, refused to end his introduction with the "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night" line that opens every show.

"First of all, I'm in Houston, wouldn't be true. And secondly, just not something I do," Bush said.