



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

KATHRYN HOLLERMAN, a UNL theater major, inspects a prop of Betty the Yetti's baby. Hollerman is making her directional debut with the show "Betty the Yetti."

Student makes directorial debut at The Futz with 'Betty the Yetti'

By ANN STACK
Senior Reporter

Take a big foot monster, a UNL student and an off-off Broadway theater and mix them together.

What does that make? Try the somewhat-politically correct play "Betty the Yetti."

Last night, University of Nebraska-Lincoln junior Kathryn Hollerman made her professional directorial debut at The Futz, 124 S. Ninth St., in the Mission Arts Building.

"Betty the Yetti" is about a logger named Russ in the Northwestern United States. Russ finds himself out of a wife and out of a job at the same time when he loses his job to preserve the forest and loses his wife to an environmentalist.

"It's about a man going through life changes. His lifestyle and world around him are changing," she said. "It's about a conflict of saving nature, saving a job, saving a way of life. He goes into nature to solve his problems, and it's there he meets the yetty."

A yetty is a mystical creature like Big Foot but smaller, Hollerman said.

"Her name is Betty, and she's an endearing animal. It's hard not to love her," she said.

She wouldn't say much more about the play, but she did advise that it wasn't suitable for children.

"There's a lot of oddness to the show."

KATHRYN HOLLERMAN
director of "Betty the Yetti"

"There's a lot of oddness to the show," she said.

The theater major said she has enjoyed professional directing immensely, and that the training she's received in the theatre department has prepared her for the real world.

"It's very exciting to actually use my training in the real world," she said. "I was very proud of the fact that the department has prepared me to do this."

Hollerman said she found that she had to do most of the tasks for the job herself.

"You don't have the support group that you have at the university," she said. "There's no lighting designer, costume designer, set designer... I've had to do a lot of it myself."

Working with a cast mainly composed of people not directly involved

with the theatre department was a refreshing experience, she said.

"They're very busy people who do it out of love," she said. "Most of them didn't graduate from the theatre program, and they don't know the terms I use. It's been a fun challenge."

She got involved with The Futz through her friendship with owner Paul Pearson. She showed him the play, he liked it and decided to give her a chance to direct.

Although she said she's loved directing and easily could do it the rest of her life, she isn't planning on taking any more directing offers because she would like to concentrate on academics. She said The Futz provided a great training ground for her professional debut.

"I love working for The Futz," she said. "They're all so open-hearted and kind. They love what they do and that makes it very easy to work with them."

"Betty the Yetti" opened Thursday, and will show tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m., and next Thursday through Sunday at 8 p.m. Admission is \$10.

Hollerman said she wants people to leave the play with a sense of hope.

"Change doesn't have to be a bad thing," she said. "That's what struck me about this play. The world is changing so quickly it's scary, but it doesn't have to be. It's an eco-fable for grown-ups."

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