

# Classic play changes with times

Cast, crew members deal with preconceived notions from audience

By LIZA HOLTMEIER  
Staff Reporter

This weekend, the Lincoln Community Playhouse will present the opening of a classic story about man's struggle against conformity and the need to liberate individuality.

The play, "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" by David Wasserman, opens Friday at 7:30 p.m. The play is based on the novel by Ken Kesey.

Though the first production of the play opened in New York to poor reviews, it has since been successful as an off-Broadway production and a movie. The film version, starring Jack Nicholson, won five Academy Awards in 1976.

The play deals with the conflicts between patients in a mental hospital and the hospital's staff. The plot revolves around the characters of Nurse Ratched, played by MarthaEllen Florence, and Randle P. McMurphy, played by Joel Story.

Because the play is well-known and deals with universal themes, the cast and crew have been confronted with the knowledge that the audience will have preconceived notions about the play.

"In the description of Nurse Ratched in the script, it said fair-skinned, blond hair and blue eyes," Florence said. "As an African-American, I had to translate that in my own mind and get comfortable with what I look like, and what the audience is going to expect Nurse Ratched to look like."

Story added the play can seem dated because many of the things that McMurphy stands for are sexist and chauvinistic. To update the play, he said that director Robin McKercher tried to emphasize the question, "How does society decide who is crazy?"

"The staff have as many idiosyncrasies as the patients," Story said. "It's just that society has deemed the patients undesirable and not the staff."

The play also remains fresh because, though the idea of man versus conformity is fairly common, the characters are not. Various cast members said they were drawn to the play because of the challenging parts.

"Chief Bromden is one of the most pinnacle Indian characters in modern plays," said Matthew L. Jones, who plays Bromden. "It's a challenging role because there are such peaks and valleys to this character who, at the beginning of the play, is perceived to

be a deaf, dumb mute."

Of her character, Florence said, "Automatically when you think of Nurse Ratched, you think she's just mean and evil and vicious, but there's another side to her. She feels she's doing something good for herself and the patients."

Overall, the rehearsals for the show have been an enjoyable experience for both seasoned Playhouse performers and beginners.

"Many of the people in the show do Lincoln Community Playhouse all the time," Florence said. "They're used to the director, the stage and how the playhouse works, and their level of professionalism is amazing."

The show runs Friday through Sunday, and continues Feb. 13-16 and 20-23. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Sundays and Feb. 23 will have 2 p.m. show times, and the curtain will rise at 7 p.m. on Feb. 16.

Ticket prices are \$18 for adults and \$7 for students on Thursdays and Sundays, and \$20 for adults and \$8 for students on Fridays and Saturdays. Those interested in tickets or more information can call the box office at 489-7529.

<http://www.unl.edu/DailyNeb/>

**AMATEUR STRIP NIGHT**  
EVERY THURSDAY  
WOMEN & MEN  
AGE 19 & OVER  
FIRST PLACE \$100  
25c drinks & draws  
GOOD for FREE ADMISSION  
on THURSDAY  
FEB. 6th ONLY  
DECADANCE  
11TH & O • LOWER LEVEL GOLDS BLDG • 475-8007

*Bodega's Alley*  
1418 'O' Street

Jolly Rancher Screw Driver  
Cape Cod Amaretto Sour

**\$1 WELL DRINKS**  
EVERY THURSDAY  
7 TO 11 P.M.  
Rum Whiskey Gin & Tonic

**Spring Break**  
Party Due To South Padre  
**\$99**

**CANCUN \$449**  
**MAZATLAN \$369**  
**S. PADRE IS. \$119**

FREE Meals  
FREE Parties  
FREE Activities  
FREE T-Shirt

**AUTOMATED TRAVEL**  
402.438.2579

**THE WATERING HOLE**  
1321 "O" STREET  
THURSDAYS 9-MIDNIGHT

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

**MAD MIKE'S**  
**TACO BAR**  
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS BUY A REGULAR PRICED PITCHER OF BEER AND YOU EAT TACOS FREE!!

**PIERCE BROSNAN LINDA HAMILTON**

**DANTE'S PEAK**

EXPLODING FEBRUARY 7TH  
www.dantespeak.com

**Maborosi**  
February 9, 1997

Ross Film Theatre  
3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm  
\$4 for students  
\$6 for non-students  
For more information contact UPC @ 472-8146

**Daily Deals**

**NEW YORK BAGEL**  
13th & Q • 438-0088

**Monday Madness**  
99¢ Breakfast & Pizza Bagels

**Wednesday Hump Day**  
—Half Off—  
50% off on all food & drink  
—with student ID—

**Friday Double Trouble**  
—2 For 1—  
Buy one, get one FREE  
—all items—

**Students - 10% Off Daily**  
With student ID  
Not valid with above offers

**FREE DELIVERY**

**One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest**  
Stirring Comic-Drama!

A habitual gambler escapes prison time by committing himself to a mental institution. However, a cruel head nurse makes his stay in the ward more difficult than he imagined as he makes every attempt to destroy his bold spirit.

Continues Feb. 7-9, 13-16, 20-23. Call 489-7529 for ticket information!

The Golden Age of the Lincoln Stage.  
**LINCOLN • COMMUNITY • PLAYHOUSE**  
2500 S. 56th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
with support from the Nebraska Arts Council