

Students keep radio drama alive

'While the City Sleeps' takes to the airwaves

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior Reporter

The dying art of radio drama returns to the airwaves tonight thanks to a group of UNL theater students.

"While the City Sleeps," written by University of Nebraska-Lincoln students Kate Eisenhour and Jared Minary, will air on KZUM, 89.3 FM, at midnight.

The show draws heavily from the radio drama of the 1940s. It follows Max, a detective, as he investigates the murder of his partner and the involvement of Laurel Lastcall, one of his clients.

"It's a mesh of Humphrey Bogart and modern references," said cast member Robie Hayek. "It begins with the introduction of the detective, and then he narrates and participates in the story."

Eisenhour and Minary first considered the idea of writing a radio mystery drama while working for the

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KATE EISENHOUR
co-writer of "While The City Sleeps"

Fremont Dinner Train this summer.

"This went from an idea in our sick and twisted minds to something we could actually hold in our hands," Eisenhour said, laughing.

The two originally planned to write the play as a three-part serial drama including 1940s-style commercials. However, Eisenhour and Minary felt one broadcast would draw more of an audience.

The two presented the idea to the Nebraska Masquers, a UNL theater group. When the Masquers agreed to back it, Minary and Eisenhour took the script to a couple of radio stations.

However, the stations were hesitant to air the show, so the two went to the Lincoln Community Playhouse to ask for their support. LCP agreed and also offered to play host to a live staged reading of the piece in January.

Minary and Eisenhour recruited a number of theater students, as well as Minary's mother, for the produc-

tion. The cast members took the scripts home and rehearsed the parts on their own.

"This experience has really challenged me as an actor," Hayek said. "When you're on a stage, you have your physicality to help you develop the character. For this, I had to learn not to rely on the physical part and to concentrate on vocalization."

Because of the success of their first endeavor, Eisenhour and Minary formed the Sound Bytes Radio Acting Company. They plan to write a psychological radio drama for their next venture.

"This is a dying art form," Minary said. "Radio drama is a classic part of drama. People in our generation need to know about it and be exposed to it."

Program listeners are invited to join cast and crew of the radio drama at midnight at Rogue's Gallery, 1401 O St., to hear the pre-recorded broadcast.

Halloween ideas cover wide range

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on your lap," she said.

Ruby Begonia's, 1321 O St., retails in vintage women's clothing and unique costumes from yesterday and today, said owner Jennifer Johnson.

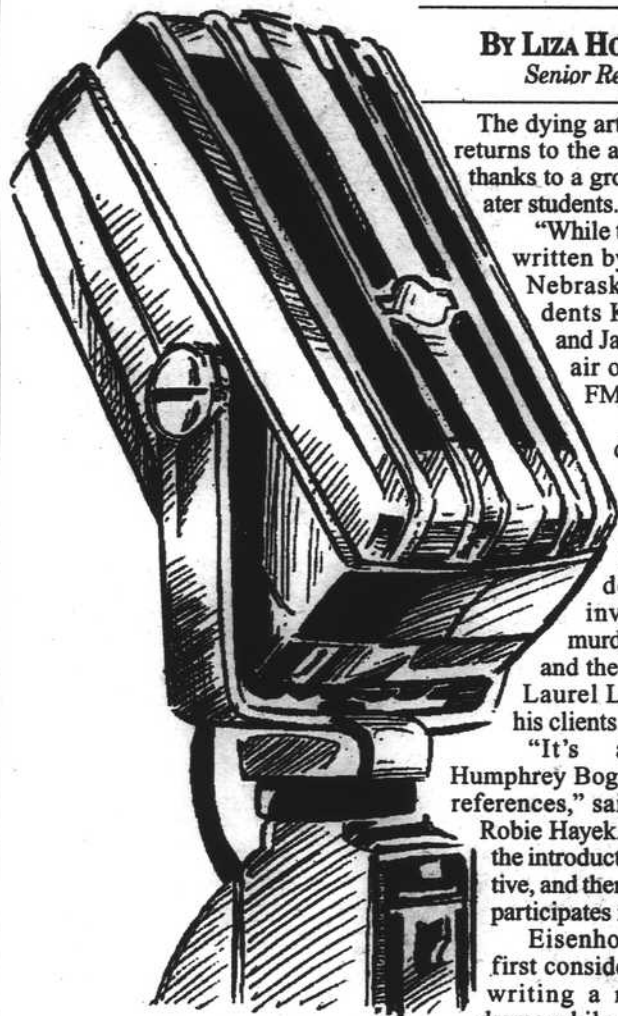
"I have retro stuff as my usual merchandise that people will come in and buy if they are going as the Brady Bunch," she said.

The store offers more than 1,000 pieces of clothing, including a variety of costumes saved over the course of the year especially for the holiday. These include genies, devils, pirates, clowns and rabbits, Johnson said. And during the Halloween season only, rentals are available on clothing for half its retail price.

Turn other peoples' fashion embarrassments into a laughable and enjoyable Halloween costume for almost nothing by shopping Lincoln's extremely successful thrift-store scene.

These stores offer an abundance of past fashion blunders, abused and misused garments and matching accessories. The re-retailers are extremely popular this time of year because of their low prices and original shopping finds, said Charles Seger, manager of Goodwill Industries thrift store, 3910 N. 27th.

"Halloween is my Christmas," he said.



MATT HANEY/DN

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