



WILLIAM M. COVER II (left) and Amy Johnson are the only two actors in "The Woolgatherer," a William Mastrosimone play directed by Kathryn Hollerman. The play opens tonight in the Studio Theatre.

## 'Woolgatherer' plays on sincere characters

By LIZA HOLTMEIER Senior Reporter

Cliff is a rough-around-the-edges truck driver. Rose is a quiet, subdued candy seller with an unusual collection.

They're not exactly Bogart and Bergman, but these two characters find each other nonetheless in William Mastrosimone's play "The Woolgatherer." The show closes the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Theatrix season this weekend.

The play, directed by Kathryn Hollerman, tells the story of the two unlikely souls - wounded by the world - who find each other and start to heat together.

It is an appropriate addition to Mastrosimone's list of previous works, which range from the psychological drama "Extremities" about physical and mental abuse to the sentimental, old-fashioned movie "With Honors," starring Joe Pesci.

Hollerman first read Mastrosimone's play "The Woolgatherer" in 1984 while in Pittsburgh. At the time, there had been an episode at the Pittsburgh zoo involving a group of children who broke in and injured several cranes.

The play evoked emotions in Hollerman that were similar to the ones she felt when she heard about the cranes.

The play had an element that made me reread it," Hollerman said. "Mastrosimone writes people I get attached to. They're very human, very real characters."

William M. Cover II, who plays Cliff, said the characters also spoke like ordinary people.

"Mastrosimone writes very natural lines, but the problem working with natural conversation is it doesn't follow one line of thought," Cover. said. "There are some really hellacious monologues."

Cover added that because the characters were so human, they were also very intricate.

"(Cliff) is something inside that doesn't come out on the outside,"

Cover said. "His person just peeks through the chinks in his armor."

Amy Johnson, who plays Rose, said she had enjoyed watching the complexity of the play's characters

"My favorite part of this show has been seeing it develop," Johnson said. "I've liked seeing where we started and how it feels toward the end."

Hollerman said the small size of the cast - Johnson and Cover are the

only actors aided in this development. "The show

is a lot more personal, intimate and more familylike," Hollerman said. "The actors had to learn to trust each other since it's just

Kathryn has done with subtext what Casablanca does with shadows."

WILLIAM M. COVER II

actor

Cover said he and Johnson also had to learn how to deal with the subtleties of the play.

"This show is about words and subtleties and emotion," Cover said. "Kathryn has done with subtext what 'Casablanca' does with shadows.'

Hollerman said she hoped the audience would find a sense of hope in the play's message.

'The story is really a modern fairy tale," she said. "It gives us that feeling ... that none of us are ever completely alone."

Johnson and Cover agreed, adding that the show was basically a love

'It's about two lost souls who find each other and who are worth saving," Cover said. "There's nothing concrete at the end of the play, but you leave feeling they are going to accomplish whatever it is they've set out to do."

"The Woolgatherer" runs Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and also at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the Temple Building's Studio Theatre. Tickets are \$3 at the door.

**Concert Preview** 

# Quintet brasses up Lied

By Patrick Kelly Staff Reporter

Classical music historically has been hard to improve upon, and new approaches to the form are rarely accomplished.

However, The Canadian Brass will perform that task with a great deal of fanfare this weekend when it performs at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

The quintet - made up of tuba player Charles Dallenbach, horn player David Ohanian, trombonist Eugene Watts and trumpeters Jens Lindemann and Ronald Romm – has been performing classical and jazz music in a unique fashion for 27 years.

Watts, a member of the Toronto Symphony, organized the ensemble, enlisting the help of the other members, who were members of various symphony

Since its incarnation, The Canadian Brass has showcased a broad range of music, from Mozart to Dixieland Jazz. The group has played for audiences all over North America, Europe, The Middle East, Asia, Australia and the former Soviet Union. The band was also the first chamber ensemble ever to perform in the People's Republic of China.

When the quintet isn't performing, it is adding to its already extensive discography. To date, the group has released more than 40 recordings including a highly successful Christmas album, "Noël," which reached No. 4 on Billboard's "Crossover" chart. The

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#### **Concert Preview**

### 'Hot Country' act presents rockabilly, alternative sounds

From Staff Reports

Just in time to do some shimmying before Dead Week, BR5-49 arrives in Lincoln tonight for the second time this

Adding to the manic energy, Lincoln's own Shithook will open the show at Knickerbockers, 901 O St., at 9. BR5-49 is set to take the stage at 10.

Combining the earthiness of early country music and elements of rockabilly and alternative, BR5-49 has emerged as one of the top new country acts.

"Rolling Stone" magazine featured the band as its "Hot Country Act" of 1996, and the group was nominated for a Grammy in January for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group.

With influences ranging from Sonic Youth to Carl Perkins, the band made a name for itself playing in the Nashville circuit before signing with Arista/Nashville records in 1995.

Touring in support of its self-titled debut album, the band features Gary Bennett on acoustic guitar and vocals, Don Herron on steel guitar, "Smilin'" Jay McDowell on upright bass, Chuck Mead on vocals and guitars and Shawn Wilson on

Tickets for tonight's show are \$13 and may be purchased at Knickerbockers and Recycled Sounds, 1211 O St.