

UNL professor fills interim post in theater department

BY LINDSEY WRIGHT
Staff Reporter

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's performing arts department will experience a scene change this fall when Charles O'Connor takes center stage.

O'Connor, associate professor of theater, has been named interim chairman of the department of theatre arts and dance. O'Connor replaces Kevin Paul Hofeditz, who, after 15 years at Nebraska, will become professor and chair of theatre at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

"It is unquestionable to me that this department is among some of the top tier programs in the country," O'Connor said in a press release.

"The faculty is outstanding and able to attract students from all around the country and world. With some of the changes and new personnel arriving, we stand the chance to become nationally prominent in some areas."

O'Connor heads the scenic design and computer-aided design program at UNL and serves as the director of film and new media production. He has been at UNL since 1993.

Julie Hagemeyer, theater manager, said O'Connor was very anxious to work in the Lied Center and other production halls. O'Connor is looking forward to "A Christmas Carol," which will return to the Lied Center this winter.

Hagemeyer said that she expected

no sweeping changes to be made until a permanent position could be filled. But O'Connor, she said, was planning to upgrade the University's performing arts facilities.

Prior to coming to UNL, O'Connor headed the design program at the University of Arizona.

O'Connor has been an art director for television and was the recipient of the CableAce Award for Outstanding Art Direction for his scenic designs for "Mother Goose Rock On Rhyme," produced by Disney for ABC. He has been a consulting designer for Disneyland and the resident assistant designer at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles.

He is the resident scenic designer at the Utah Shakespearean Festival, where this summer he is designing "King John," "All's Well That Ends Well" and "The Taming of the Shrew."

O'Connor's television credits include "My Two Dads," on NBC, "Small Wonder," on Fox and "Shelley Duvall's Tall Tales," on Showtime.

Other theatrical credits include "Damn Yankees" and "Carousel" for Music Theatre of Wichita; "She Loves Me," "Table Manners" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at the Nebraska Repertory Theatre; "Alice in Wonderland" at the Omaha Theatre Company for Young Audiences; "Fabiola" at the Ensemble Studio Theatre in Los Angeles and "One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest" at the Omaha Community Playhouse.

He has won two Caddie Awards for his computer-aided design from Cadalyst Magazine.

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