

A play in the sun

Nebraska Repertory Theatre powerhouse of talented casts, productions

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Senior staff writer

Because it takes place on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, many assume the Nebraska Repertory Theatre's season to be student summer stock.

But Nebraska Rep, now in its 32nd year, provides Lincoln with a professional theater season.

"This is theater on the level of the Lied Center," said Leta Powell-Drake, who will be appearing in her first Rep show this summer. "But the tickets are at a terrifically reduced price."

Since 1968, Nebraska Rep has provided actors, designers, directors and technicians with a chance to get paid for their work.

In 1988, the Rep signed a contract with the Actors' Equity Association, the professional actors' union. The contract requires the Rep to hire at least four Equity actors per show and allows local, non-union actors and theater department students to be hired as well.

"It gives a lot of actors who are stuck here the opportunity to do professional theater," said Jude Hickey, who will perform in the Rep's children show this summer.

By working for the Rep, students can receive points toward earning their Equity card.

The Rep also brings new faces to the Lincoln community.

"You go to all six main stage shows at the University, and you see pretty much the same people," Hickey said. "You go to the Community Playhouse, and you see the same group of people there."

While the Rep uses some local actors, many are "imports" from other states, Powell-Drake said.

This summer's season opens in June with "Deathtrap," a murder-mystery comedy. It centers around Sidney Bruhl, a failing playwright who will go to any lengths to see his next offer-

Nebraska Repertory Theatre 1999

Deathtrap

by Ira Levin
Directed by Ina Marlowe
June 9-12 & 15-19, 7:30 p.m. and June 13, 3 p.m.
Howell Theatre

Dealing with the devious machinations of a writer of thrillers whose recent offerings have been flops, and who is prepared to go to any lengths to improve his fortunes, Deathtrap provides twists and turns and abundant shocks.

Sylvia

by A.R. Gurney
Directed by Brant Pope
July 7-10 & 13-17, 7:30 p.m. and July 11, 3 p.m.
Carson Theatre

A modern romantic comedy about a marriage and a dog. Greg and Kate have moved to Manhattan after 22 years of child-raising in the suburbs. Greg brings home a dog he found in the park — or that has found him — bearing only the name "Sylvia" on her name tag. A street-smart mixture of lab and poodle, Sylvia becomes a major bone of contention between husband and wife.

The Princess and the Pea

by Paul A. Lavratsas
A Theater for Family Audiences Production directed by Karen Libman
July 22 & 23, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. and July 24 & 25, 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.
Studio Theatre

Princess Astrid finds she has been lured from home by Gustav the Troll as a prospective bride for the bookish Prince Eric. Although this young princess has no interest in marriage or princes, she takes a series of tests to prove she is a "real princess."

Division Street

by Steve Tschich
Directed by Paul Gaffney
July 28-31 & August 3-7, 7:30 p.m. & August 1, 3 p.m.
Howell Theatre

Chris, a burnt-out '60s radical, has settled his activist past, but he is besieged by old cronies and unwanted new acquaintances including a left-wing militant who has been reborn as a female cop, and an ex-wife who speaks in '60s rock lyrics.

JON FRANK/DN

ing succeed.

Written by Ira Levin, the author of "Rosemary's Baby," the play twists and turns to its thrilling conclusion.

"It will scare the bejeezus out of you," Powell-Drake said.

Following "Deathtrap," the Rep will pro-

Please see **REPERTORY** on 16



MELANIE FALK/DN

Fund-raiser to offer taste of international cuisine

BY DANELL MCCOY
Staff writer

Exotic foods from around the world, servers dressed in navy-colored garb and fog horns in the distance.

Only in Nebraska.

Tonight, over 800 hospitality professionals will gather at the Cornhusker Hotel for the Nebraska Restaurant Association's 12th annual Taste of Nebraska.

Taste of Nebraska is the annual membership meeting and fund-raiser where hundreds of hospitality and food service professionals recognize local industry members and, most importantly, eat.

"This fund-raiser is mainly for those in the

restaurant industry in Nebraska," said Richard Lutz, executive CEO of the restaurant association. "We don't have a trade show, we have this."

Taste of Nebraska is the only major fund-raiser for the NRA. The money generated from this event will help to maintain the three ventures that were unveiled at the 1998 event: the Membership Van, an educational and recruitment tool; the Home Page; and Food and Safety First, a comprehensive sanitation program for all levels of restaurant employees.

New projects, such as ProStart, a School-to-Work program for high school students, will also benefit.

The event will begin at 5:30 with a ceremony awarding the restaurateur, associate and lodger of the year. It will be followed by keynote speakers

Culture The Facts



What: Nebraska Restaurant Association's Taste of Nebraska
Where: Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th St.
When: April 26 at 5:30
Cost: \$50 per person, call (402) 483-2630 for ticket information
The Skinny: Annual fund-raiser for anyone interested in the hospitality industry

Gov. Mike Johanns and Joseph K. Fassler, chairman of the association's board.

Entertainment will be provided by comedian Roddy Gray.

A silent auction will also take place, with items such as a sport utility vehicle, vacation packages, Husker football tickets and dinner for two for a year.

This year's theme is "Cruising Into the Millennium." The entire program will be based on this maritime theme.

"The staff will be dressed in navy and foghorns will be directing people to the next event," Lutz said.

The event will feature foods from six ports of call, including Mexico, Italy, Greece, Australia, Hawaii and the Caribbean.