

"Flyin' West" demonstrates struggles of 19th-century sisters

Independent women abound in the 21st century.

But in the 19th century, they were a little harder to come by.

Rest assured, though, they weren't nonexistent.

"Flyin' West," the second historical American drama to take the stage in the Lincoln Community Playhouse's 2000 season, tells the story of four of those women.

The play centers on four sisters who escape the racist South for a new life in Kansas at the end of the 19th century.

Robin McKercher, a director at the playhouse, said the play fit the agenda of the LCP's goals for the new millennium.

"Part of our mission is to do shows that offer roles of opportunity for people of different cultures," McKercher said. "This production shows an American experience outside of white American experiences."

He said the play was appropriate for a diverse audience.

"These women would do anything to hold on to their land," he said. "It's an African-American story told in a perspective of the Midwest. It's very pertinent."

The play comprises a small cast—

only six actors. The central character is Miss Leah (Paulette Jones), a 73-year-old matriarch who, after losing 15 sons to slavery, walked to Kansas to claim her land.

She is accompanied by three sisters—Sophie (Deidre Barney), a rugged gunslinger; Fannie (Leticia Martinez) a kindhearted woman; and Minnie (Kaili West), an insecure woman with a domineering husband.

Unlike the production currently showing at the playhouse, "The Grapes of Wrath," "Flyin' West" takes a more comedic angle on struggle.

"I don't want to give it away, but there is a surprise," McKercher said. "The sisters come up with a solution to deal with a personality obstacle that isn't exactly P.C., but it makes their future look optimistic."

He said the play ends with a sense of resonance for the viewer.

"Violence is never the answer, but when it comes to holding on to what is meaningful, the sisters make their decision," he said. "They live with their choice. Audiences may question their ethics, but they won't question why they did it. It might leave a few people feeling pretty damn good."

Laurus deadline approaching
The deadline for submitting

Dropped Notes

works to the 2000-2001 edition of Laurus, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's creative writing magazine, is Jan. 31.

The magazine, which is published yearly, accepts any kind of writing, said Greg Kuzma, the faculty adviser for Laurus.

Kuzma said the magazine accepted submissions in the form of interviews, plays, scripts and was also seeking writing about subjects such as travel, journalism, humor or university issues.

The magazine also accepts cartoons and other forms of artwork.

"We're not going to avoid the cutting edge, tough stuff," Kuzma said. Submissions can be sent to the Laurus mailbox at the Department of English, Andrews Hall 202, Lincoln, NE, 68588.

All submissions must include the student's name, address and phone number.

The work that is selected will be published next fall.

For more information, call Kuzma at (402) 472-1802.

Jolie's performance key to success of 'Girl, Interrupted'

GIRL from page 9

good at their jobs, and one of them even falls for Susanna. The other patients, only marginally troubled, aren't written well enough to drive the plot forward.

Rather, the focus is Susanna's self-realization in dealing with fear, a point she finally reaches after one

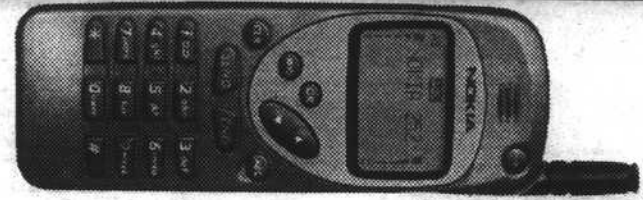
of her friends meets a tragic end on the outside. Not surprisingly, Susanna's health drives Lisa over the edge, bringing about a confrontation that serves as the film's climax.

Jolie and Ryder are powerful, and though they are roughly the same age, it's amazing to see how different as actresses they are. Jolie possesses a physical range Ryder

does not; she is magnetic while Ryder is more classical in her acting.

They fill in their roles well and together onscreen, the chemistry flows. "Girl, Interrupted" is better viewed as a study of these two characters than it is as an entire experience of the mental hospital; it is a film where one part is greater than the sum.

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