

2000 International Thespian Festival hits Lincoln

THESPIANS from page 6

Michael Peitz, executive director of the Educational Theatre Association. "It's a chance to showcase the finest high school theatre in the country."

Over 2,600 student thespians and chaperones have settled into UNL dorms to celebrate their shared passion for the stage.

During the week of June 26-July 1, two main stage shows, which have been pre-selected through auditions, are performed each day by students for students in the Lied Center and in the Howell Theatre. Also, the student thespians can choose from a number of one act plays performed by fellow participants in the festival. Performances include zany comedy in

Nonsense. Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Macbeth* and the intense drama of sexual assault in *Intimate Betrayal*.

Nancy Brown, director of the festival, said she hoped the festival would broaden students' knowledge of theatre genres through performances.

"It's not just high school musicals," she said. "We want to expose them to a variety of plays," she said. There's comedy, drama, farce, all kinds for them to learn about."

Also offered to the student thespians are a variety of workshops aimed to sharpen the young actors' talents in areas of acting, directing, playwriting, dance, movement, improvisation, costuming, makeup and set design.

Aaron Morris, 14, of Cincinnati, Ohio, said the festival is a great way to learn about specific areas of interest in theatre.

"I'm going to check out the improv and ensemble workshops," he said. "I mean, it's always good to learn anything to improve."

Sara Landis, 16, of York, Pa., who attended a script analysis workshop, said, "You learn about so much more than acting. You can learn about literature, public speaking, history, and even math and science."

Also, representatives from 30 colleges will be on hand during the festival for student auditions.

Chris Adams, 17, of Jackson, Miss., said he hoped to win a

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Nancy Brown
director, International Thespian Festival

scholarship from his audition.

"I was less nervous than I thought," he said with a laugh. "But I'm looking to go for Roosevelt College in Chicago."

Opportunities like late night dances and variety shows let students mingle with other student

thespians during the festival.

Said Brown: "This is a week long celebration of high school theatre. She said, "We want to fine tune some skills, but we want the kids to have fun and make friends at the same time."

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