

Features

"Flight Path" comes to Flat Rock "Kings of Comedy" pushes limits

Casey Blankenship
Staff Writer



COURTESY OF THE FLAT ROCK PLAYHOUSE

The two person theatrical production "Here in the Flight Path" played at The Flat Rock Playhouse.

Flat Rock Playhouse recently presented Norm Foster's play, "Here on the Flight Path," an amusing romantic comedy about a man and his relationships with his female neighbors.

Norm Foster portrays the character of John Cummings and his wife, Janet Monid, portrays the female characters.

John Cummings is a columnist for a newspaper called "Cummings and Goings." He is also working on a novel that he has completed in his head, just not on paper.

Cummings plays neighbor to a revolving assortment of tenants who occupy the frequently rented apartment next door.

Over a span of three and a half years, three very different women live in the apartment next door. As Cummings reflects on his relationships with neighbors Faye, Angel and Gwen, he shares his unique views with a thoughtful yet humorous touch.

He lives in the flight path with airplanes regularly crossing overhead. The disturbance these planes bring about mirror the disruption caused by the women in his life.

The first disruption arrives in the form of Faye, a hooker, who likens men to kitchen tile. Her philoso-

phy is that if you lay them right the first time, you can walk all over them for 20 years.

Faye develops into Cummings' first female friend. They talk about true love and romance. This is surprising since Cummings' idea of a romantic couple happens to be "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

Although things develop nicely for Faye and Cummings, a nosy neighbor reports on her nocturnal activities, forcing her to leave the apartment.

Faye and Cummings share some tough-talking one-liners that kept the predominantly geriatric crowd at the Flat Rock Playhouse rolling with laughter.

Next arrives Angel, an aspiring singer/actress. Angel plays a newcomer to the city and next door

neighbor to Cummings. Monid displays her talent in all of the three female roles, which surprised the elderly person sitting in the chair next to me. Every time Monid came on stage as a different female character, the elderly lady would shout out, "It's the same woman!"

This can be taken as a glowing commendation of Monid's skills as an actress, or, the fact that my neighbor in the next seat was pushing eighty and not wearing glasses, instead preferring to peer through her binoculars.

Angel, though not very bright, describes herself as plucky and has a big heart. For example, when her father offers to buy her a new car she decides to choose a red one because her family has always driven red cars and they have never had

See Flight page 6

Rebecca Travers
Staff Writer

If crude humor is your thing, "The Original Kings of Comedy" will not disappoint you.

My hand remained in a stationary over-the-mouth position for at least half of the film, partly to conceal the loudness of my laughter and partly in amazement.

In the "Original Kings of Comedy," the people themselves, not the film, never took the time or saw the need to develop boundaries in regard to offensive behavior.

The film, directed by Spike Lee, is not your typical Hollywood narrative. It follows a more pseudo-documentary style.

My friend who accompanied me to this movie, Chas Moore, commented on Lee's directing work. He said, "His directing is pretty consistent with all his other works. Like always, I enjoyed it."

Lee utilized unique camera angles that instinctively made me aware of the camera's presence. MTV collaborated with Latham Productions and Four Acres and a Mule, which is Spike Lee's film company for the production of "The Original Kings of Comedy."

I went into the theater knowing very little about what I had just paid to see, besides the obvious clues that the title reveals.

The film was segmented into four basic comedic acts, each one hosted by a different "King of Comedy." The stars of the show included Steve Harvey, D.L. Hughley, Cedric the



PHOTO BY ANTHONY GRECO

Jason Byers purchases a ticket for 'The Original King's of Comedy.'

Entertainer and Bernie Mac.

In between each act, Steve Harvey, the first to perform and the announcer for all of the other comics, gave a brief show.

Each of the shows were shot live in Charlotte, N.C. The energy of the filmed audience combined with the constant clapping and hollering within the theater crowd distorted real space and time. I occasionally felt as if I was part of a live show.

Moore admitted that the best part of the film was Lee's tendency to focus much of the camera on the audience. He said, "The funniest part had to be the audiences' reactions."

Between each of the acts, we were visually brought backstage to pre-

view a "behind the scenes" sort of reality. It was difficult to separate the performers from their real personalities.

Harvey, Hughley, Cedric and Mac all kept a similar tone when performing.

They discussed material traditionally considered to be taboo, such as sex, male and female gender roles, differences between race, and child abuse.

The only annoyance I found within the film came at the end during Bernie Mac's performance.

Mac patted himself on the back until he bruised. He bragged "I just say what y'all won't," repeatedly throughout his show.

I believe in freedom of speech. I even identify with those who advertise their opinions, but I do not consider this outward expression an innovative notion.

Yes, there are many people still out there who practice avoidance as though it were their religion, but more and more of us are speaking up. We are not as timid as we used to be.

Mac's comedy proves my point well. Sure, he centers his act on "offensive" material, but the audience loves it.

The attention Mac receives due to his subject matter suggests that the audience will discuss the "hush hush" material he incorporates into his act.

See KINGS page 6

Review

Review

FYI

For Your Information

Get the rest of your education...

sept 9
thru
sept 16

UNCA

FYI is a service of the Student Activities and Student Affairs offices.

FYI is published each Thursday. Deadline to submit information is Friday at 2 pm, for the following week's publication. Send basic information to K. Keane, HC 27 or e-mail kkeane@unca.edu. See FYI on Banner Online at www.unca.edu/banner/fyi.

academic notices

- Biology Symposium, 7 am-11 pm, RH 125 • 9/9
- Study Abroad Fair, 3 pm, HC Lounge • 9/14
- Last day to withdraw from semester course • 9/27
- Undergraduate Research handbooks available in KH 126
- SOARS Conference Presentation Proposals due • 9/15

athletics

- Women's Soccer vs. High Point, 4 pm, GF • 9/8
- Men's Soccer vs. Warren Wilson, 2 pm, GF • 9/9
- Men's Soccer vs. VMI, 1 pm, GF • 9/10
- Volleyball vs. East Tennessee, 7 pm, JG • 9/12

career center/jobs

- Homecoming Celebration Coordinators (September thru March) Applications at HC 27, apply by • 9/8
- E-jobs: Part time jobs listserve - contact mwhitson@unca.edu
- JobTrak.com: Graduating Seniors registration for full time jobs - go to www.unca.edu/career
- Work Study on campus, \$6.25/hr, 8 hrs/week, must have unmet need, apply LH 221

concerts/live entertainment

- Carribean Cowboys band, 12 pm, UNCA Quad, spon. by Theta Chi • 9/9
- Open Mic sign-ups, HC 44 • thru 9/13
- Dance Performance "In a Different Light: Duke Ellington" by Donald Byrd/The Group, 8 pm, Diana Wortham Theater • 9/15-9/16
- Marimba Concert by Nathan Daughtrey, \$5 donation, 4 pm, 018 LH • 9/10

etc.

- Check out the Child Care website at www.unca.edu/childcare
- Organizational Meeting for the Babysitter Connection, 4 pm, HFC • 9/13
- Bulldog Express, free bus service around Asheville-Downtown, Wal-mart, Mall, Beaucatcher Cinema (7:30-12:30 am Friday and Saturday) from UNCA
- Night Sky Viewing on the Quad, 9 pm • Monday and Tuesday evenings
- Social Life Task Force Weekend Event Funding applications available for any student org. or campus dept., HC 27 • due 9/22

exhibits

- Opening: Photographs by Cheryl Lore, 6:30 pm, Owen Hall • 9/9
- Terry Godfrey Installation, Blowers Gallery • thru 9/30

films

- "Alas de Mariposa" (Butterfly Wings), Hispanic Film Festival, 7 pm, Whitman Room • 9/11

leadership opportunities

- Homecoming Celebration Coordinators (applications at HC 27) • due 9/8
- Internship with UNCA-OUT!/Gay and Lesbian Studies Conf./Office of Diversity/Minority Affairs (appl. at HC 34) • due 12 pm 9/15
- SGA Positions: Sophomore/Senior/Commuter Senator and Exec. (HC 39) • due 9/8

lectures/workshops/seminars

- "Will Ballistic Missile Defense Make Us Safer?", by Nuclear Discussion Group, 7 pm, RL • 9/7
- Introduction to Landmark Forum, 1-3 pm, LF (x5652) • 9/9
- "The Emergence of the Greek City-State," by Dr. Sophie Mills, 7 pm, The Kellogg Center • 9/18
- "Human Rights Intervention: The New Imperialism?" by Dr. Holmes, 7pm, HLH • 9/11

organizations (special programs)

- Sorority Membership Week, HC • thru 9/9
- SGA Freshman Delegates Debate, 9 pm, HC • 9/11

outdoor activities (sign up in HC)

- Introduction to Kayaking, \$40 includes transportation and equipment, 9am • 9/9
- Sky Diving, \$50 includes transportation and fees • 9/23
- Mountain Biking, \$15 includes transportation and food • 9/24

recreation/intramurals

- Karate Club, 7pm, Dance Studio • Mondays/Wednesdays
- Martial Arts Club, 7pm, Dance Studio • Tuesdays/Thursdays
- Kayaking 7-9:30 pm, pool • Wednesdays
- Ultimate Frisbee/Club Team, 8pm, Lower Field • Mondays/Thursdays

tickets in HC 27

- Asheville Art Museum, \$2
- Biltmore House, \$24
- Carowinds, \$22
- Chimney Rock, \$6
- United Artists Theatres Movie tickets, \$4
- David Byrd/The Group, \$5

upcoming events

- Residence Life BINGO, 9 pm, HC Lounge • 9/19
- "Harambee: Africans in America, Americans in Africa" 5 pm, PDR • 9/21
- Seminar: Introduction to Mediation, 10 am, HC Lounge • 9/23
- "Macbeth" by Theatre UNCA, CBT • 9/28 - 10/8
- Chancellor James Mullen Installation, 2 pm, Quad • 10/6
- Family Weekend • 10/6 - 10/8
- Fall Fling 2000, Festivities on the Quad, 1-5 pm, Quad • 10/7

volunteer opportunities

- For meaningful service-learning opportunities contact the Key Center for Learning, 251-6400 or lweinberg@unca.edu
- Do you want to help with conflict resolution on campus? Contact the Peer Mediation Center at 232-5120 or mediate@unca.edu