

Arts

'Working' to portray woes of life in the American workforce

By Amy Andrews
Staff Writer

Working, a musical about the humorous and positive aspects of the American workforce, will be presented in Elon College's Whitley Auditorium beginning tonight at 8 p.m. Other performances are scheduled for Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. and on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Admission to the performances is \$3 or free with a valid college ID. Tickets are available at the door.

The musical, based on Studs Turkel's book, *Working*, reveals the true nature of the American workforce, not just the glamorous, fictional, or negative sides which Hollywood has so often focused upon. Cast member Greg Zaiser said that *Working* is a musical "about the working class people in America." He added, "It's not your typical musical. It's realistic."

The book, *Working*, was writ-

ten from hundreds of interviews which tell about how jobs are such a major part of life. Stephen Schwartz wrote the musical and added songs by James Taylor and Micki Grant.

Eighteen actors and actresses, directed by Elon fine arts instructor Todd Olson, represent 42 characters from many different walks of life. Prostitutes, professional actors, firemen, executives, waitresses, football coaches, and bag boys, are some of the professions portrayed.

Stage manager Sue Morton said that "everyone is on stage all of the time. They stand on scaffolding."

The musical is divided into two acts. The first act shows the dayshift from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The second act shows life after the five o'clock whistle.

The play is presented without glamour. Instead, it shows the truth and the humor that is the working world.



WORKING FOR A LIVING: Lisa Westerlund and the cast for *Working* rehearse for tonight's performance of *Working* in Whitley Auditorium at 8 p.m. Photo by Michele Lashley

researches the material to make it familiar and easily interpretable by the cast.

"When the play opens, you see why he wanted you to do a certain thing in a certain way," Bennett said.

Bennett credits Kerns for his help with her career. "He directed me in my first role," she said.

While many talented actors have lofty aspirations for their futures, Bennett is content in the local theater.

But she has her ideals, too. Bennett said she would love to work with Katherine Hepburn on stage. Among actors, "Jimmy Stewart would be the one," she said. "He is just the most."

Bennett to star in 'Crimes of the Heart'

By Kathy Schmidt
Staff Writer

"I'm a ham," said Print Shop director Laura Bennett. That's how Bennett got involved with her eighth production for the Gallery Players Community Theater.

Bennett will be starring in the Gallery Players' production of Beth Henley's play *Crimes of the Heart*.

Performances will be given Friday, Saturday and Sunday and May 1-3 at the Paramount Theater, 128 E. Front St., Burlington.

"No part is too small," said Bennett. One of her favorite roles was in *Mame* where she was on stage only 10 minutes. "I got to walk down the aisle saying 'damn Yankee bitch!'" Bennett laughingly explained.

Another of Bennett's favorite roles was the part of Cherie, the

dumb blonde, in *Bus Stop*. She explained that the play itself was fun but that also, "the cast I worked with was so close, the whole cast just clicked."

Being typecast is a problem for Bennett. "I get typecast in three ways. As a dumb blonde, an old woman or as a dead body," she said. However, typecasting does not diminish Bennett's love of acting. "I'd do anything to get to go to cast parties," she said.

In *Crimes of the Heart* Bennett plays Babe, one of three "screwball sisters," as Bennett explains it. Babe is out of jail on bail after shooting her husband. "She was tired of his stinking looks," Bennett said of her character.

Crimes of the Heart is being directed by Ralph Kerns, a veteran of many Gallery Players productions.

"He is wonderful," said Bennett of the director, who she said

Costello concert disappointing

By Chuck Hughes
Special to The Pendulum

Elvis Costello, who had never played North Carolina, gave a solo concert to a sellout crowd last Tuesday in Duke University's Cameron Indoor Stadium.

When Costello walked onstage in his trademark sportscoat and tapered jeans, many fans were surprised that he was not followed by his band, the Attractions. Costello opened the show with an old classic, "The Angels Want to Wear My Red Shoes." but it took him an hour to get himself and the audience into the groove.

He resumed the show with "Every Day I Write the Book," followed by "Club Land" and "What's So Funny About Peace Love and Understanding?" which he performed in a duet with Nick Lowe, who had played as opening act for Costello.

Costello pulled several people on stage to spin the wheel, and when people requested certain songs he caused the wheel to stop on that selection. The tunes that got the biggest crowd response were "Allison" and the finale, "Pump It Up."

The show was disappointing only in that it did not include "Watching the Detectives." The crowd did not exactly go bananas over Elvis, even at their enthusiastic, and this response may well encourage Costello to avoid North Carolina on future tours.

Concert review

The highlight of the first half of the concert were songs by other artists, including Buddy Holly's "Not Fade Away" and the Grateful Dead's "Ship of Fools" and "It Must Have Been the Roses." He played the latter song after reading a recognizable Deadhead poem, "The Day the Grateful Dead Got Busted."

When Costello left the stage after the first hour, people clapped for an encore. Little did they know that Costello would play for another hour and a half.

He returned to stage in a red circus ringmaster's outfit. The stage had been turned into a mini-carnival, with a large roulette wheel listing Elvis' songs.

HELP WANTED

Full-time temporary positions for the summer. Construction related, requires heavy lifting. Must be 18 years old with clean driving record. Call for interview 226-0287, Energy Accent Products Burlington.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for a part-time, reliable babysitter for our little girl at home in the afternoons from 1 to 6 p.m., this summer or next year. Transportation is required. Contact Jill, 275-9371, extension 177 at work or 584-3053 at home.