

Oz performs to full houses

By Cindy Smith

Center Stage Theater presented "The Wizard of Oz" March 4-5 and March 9-11 at Herman Park Center. Gene McLendon directed the production.

Dr. Ron Taylor, WCC chemistry instructor, played Uncle Henry. Kim Radford, daughter of Phyllis Radford, Assessment Counselor Aid in the Career Center, played Dorothy.

"The selection of the cast was difficult," according to McLendon. The most difficult of all were the parts of the Scarecrow, Lion, Tinman, and Dorothy."

Freddie Pierce had the most versatile part in the performance. He played the dual parts of Professor Marvel and the Wizard.

The rehearsals ran eight weeks, from the middle of January to the first of March.

McLendon's resourcefulness was evident in the way he used a fire extinguisher to produce smoke to show the wizard's anger and power.

Sean Norris was responsible for the imaginative and fanciful scenery. Flo Vail, Mary-Lee Jeffries and the entire cast designed and made the fantastic costumes.

The house was filled to capacity four nights and the Sunday matinee. McLendon said that CST has never had a sell-out performance on Sunday before. House managers turned away about eighty people on the nights of the sell outs.

According to McLendon, "there's nothing that I would change even if I wanted to". McLendon's most favorite part in Oz was that of Scarecrow. The person who played the Tinman made his own costume with the help of his wife.

Students attend wild version of Shakespeare's 'Taming'

By Cindy Smith

On April 18, 1989, twenty students from Rosalyn Lomax's English 261 and 152 classes attended a modern-dress version of Shakespeare's play, "Taming of the Shrew" at UNC-Chapel Hill in the Paul Green Theater.

Lomax arranged the trip for her students in Major British Writers as part of their study of Shakespeare's plays, "King Lear" and "The Tempest." College Composition II students attended as part of their study of drama.

Prior to the play Amy Brown presented an oral report on "The Taming of the Shrew," supplementing her presentation with a video tape of a "Moonlighting" episode which parodied the play.

OUR TOWN

A Play By Thornton Wilder



"Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc."

Program cover for May 19-20 drama. WCC Media Department

'Our Town' comes to WCC

By Cindy Smith and Doug Collier

The Foundation of Wayne Community College will present "Our Town," a play by Thornton Wilder on May 18, 19, and 20 in the Learning Center on the new (north) campus beginning at 8:00 p.m.

The play consists of three acts: The first act introduces the main characters and the basic lifestyle of the people of Grovers Corners.

The households of Dr. Gibbs and Editor Webb are portrayed throughout one full day.

In the second act, a love affair develops between George Gibbs and Emily Webb.

They first realize their feelings for one another in a soda shop scene.

The act ends with an emotional wedding, filled with the doubts and fears that are characteristic of many such occasions.

Student Esther Ellison commented on the play: "It was very enjoyable to watch." It is the first play she's seen in the three and one-half years she has lived in Goldsboro. Ellison said that the modern version was good because teenagers could understand it a lot better than the traditional version. Students especially enjoyed a portion the actors performed in modern rap style.

After the play everyone enjoyed dinner at the Pyewacket Restaurant.

Bill Cherry and Liz Meador assisted Lomax in providing transportation.

The third act portrays the cemetery near Grovers Corners at the time of Emily's death.

She joins the people who have subsequently left earth's reality to the world beyond.

She soon realizes the futility of looking at the past and realizes how blind the living really are.

Dr. Ron Taylor, director, said: "It was very hard choosing the cast; in fact that is the most difficult time in working with a play.

"You have so many things to consider--whether the person fits the role you want him to play and how he will project."

The cast and characters are as follows: Stage Manager, Dr. Ed Hogan; Emily Webb, Fleming Lomax; George Gibbs, Doug Collier; Mr. Webb, Dr. Taylor; Mrs. Webb, Laura Shiver; Dr. Gibbs, Ray Brannon; Mrs. Gibbs, Rosalyn Lomax.

Also, Simon Stimson, John Wyatt; Rebecca Gibbs, Kim Radford; Wally Webb, Fred Lomax IV; Howie Newsome, Glenn Smith; Joe Crowell, Charlie Taylor; Si Crowell, Charlie Taylor; Mrs. Soames, Marion Dees; Professor Willard, Chuckie Mayros; Constable Warren, Fred Sproul; Joe Stoddard, Mike Bruce; Sam Craig, Waiston Lee.

Also, Man in the Auditorium, Chris Plummer; Lady in the Box, Grace Lutz; Baseball Players, Charlie Taylor and Chris Plummer; 1st Dead Man, Chris Plummer; 1st Dead Woman, Grace Lutz; 2nd Dead Woman, Chuckie Mayros; 3rd Dead Woman, Irene Wallace.

Assistant Stage Managers are Irene Wallace, Chris Plummer, Chuckie Mayros, and Grace Lutz.

Townpeople include Chris Plummer, Grace Lutz, Phyllis Radford, Irene Wallace, Victoria Freeman-Ubanis, Chuckie Mayros, Portia Benjamin, and Glenn Smith.



Writers and Readers Series takes off in fifth season

By Cindy Smith

The Writers and Readers Series sends poets and fiction writers to ten locations in North Carolina each year to read and talk about their works.

The purpose is to promote and encourage N.C.'s best writers and to build audiences for literature.

Recently the local writers' guild invited poet Cedar Koons and fiction writer Catherine Petroski to read from their works.

Cedar Koons, a poet from Timberlake, N.C., has been published in the "Sun Magazine", "Blue Pitcher", "Tobacco Road", and "Mothering Magazine." She has also had essays and reviews published in newspapers.

Catherine Petroski, a fiction writer from Durham, N.C., is the author of "Gravity and Other Stories" and two children's books, "Beautiful My Mane in the Wind" and "The Summer That Lasted Forever." She has taught Fiction Writing at Duke University.

Both writers said they kept journals and wrote in them almost every day.



Cedar Koons
Photo: Cindy Smith

Pearl Harbor revisited

By De Elliott

Today I was assaulted by the Japanese--no warning was given, no hint of hostility. They just suddenly were there. No--today isn't December 7, 1941, but I feel as if I've been kamikazied anyway.

I had pulled up at a stop-light on the highway while heading to college this morning, and I noticed that all the cars and trucks in front of me were of Japanese make, Toyotas and Hondas.

I was shocked. . . . I looked to my side and there was another one, a Subaru, I think. "This can't be," I thought. "I'm in America, not Japan. If I look into my rear view mirror, surely I'll see some cars of American make."

I looked into my mirror and saw more Toyotas and Hondas, with a few Subarus. "No," I thought. "I'm no longer in America. Maybe I'd better learn the Japanese anthem? But, ah! Wait! What is that car behind the red Isuzu? Surely they can't all be of Japanese make?"

I was right. It wasn't a Japanese import--it was an Audi. Goodbye Sweet America. You were nice while you lasted.