

Dabbling in the absurd

by Jerry Vernon
Staff Writer

A troupe of actors weave down Franklin Street in search of volunteers. Their lively costumes and signs, "Don't pay your taxes" and other controversial placards, attract many people.

Soon The Everyman Company, a community-based theatre, has an audience for their next production. Those who join the Everyman parade are treated to an evening of absurd drama.

This rather unique approach "attracts street vendors (street people) as the major part of our audience" explained UNC graduate, Virginia Hill, a charter member of the Everyman Company.

Everyman could be called an alternative to the Carolina Playmakers. While the Playmakers provide the university with structured drama, the Everyman offers the community dramatic training under the

loose supervision of absurd drama.

Although Everyman is, in Hill's words, "a poorly, but not terribly organized group", the company has an impressive six-year history. They have performed such plays as, "Viet Rock", "The Physicist" and "Merry Wives of Windsor."

The company recently saw members move to the "paying theatre." The Tommy Thompson Band, who first acted with Everyman, is now playing "Diamond Studs" in Washington. Another member, Ty Stevens, wrote the music for this Broadway success.

Ferguson said the company "brings strange theatre out because people like it better."

Most, if not all, of Everyman's productions have been absurd drama. Even their Shakespeare has an unusual twist. They used southern accents in "Midsummer's Nights Dream" and the cast "talked like

Cowboys" in the more recent presentation of "Merry Wives of Windsor."

Ferguson fears that Everyman is considered a "closed group." Many people feel they haven't a chance at auditions unless they are experienced or know someone, but they are wrong.

"A lot of our best people have never acted before," said the bearded player. "And now, for the first time we have people who're interested in technical directions."

Two local businesses, Cat's Cradle and The Ranch House, offer Everyman theater space at no charge. The actors give their time and "hopefully," Hill said, "the audience will give" the necessary \$100 for a performance.

Everyman produced only two plays over the past year because, in the words of Philosophy professor Richard Zaffron, "we're all busy people and do Everyman when we have time."

Their latest production, "You Can't Take It With You", played for eight weeks. They intend to increase their program to five plays over the next year. The company also hopes to add acting lessons and experimental theatre to their dramatic agenda.

Everyman traditionally opens every year with a Shakespearean production. Hill and Ferguson decided to begin this season "with a summer 'Alice' instead of spring Shakespeare."

The two will co-direct "Alice In Wonderland". Auditions will be held at the Cat's Cradle this Saturday and Monday. The play opens July 18 at Forest Theatre and then plays the Cat's Cradle. "And from there," laughed Ferguson, "the world."



Brenda Mezz, left, and Virginia Hill console each other in The Everyman Company's summer production of "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

Bible expert Boyd digs deep into past

by Melissa Staples
Staff Writer

"He's the kind of instructor I wish I could always have. He's dynamic, interesting, very thorough and really enjoys his work. He keeps you captivated."

These are just a few of the comments made about Dr. Bernard Boyd, James A. Gray professor of Biblical Literature, and winner of two Tanner Awards for distinction in college teaching.

Long known at Carolina as an outstanding professor, he is also a familiar speaker to many congregations and church groups around the state. His flair for speaking is best described by a psychology major, "Words seem to really mean something when they come from him, they're not just words."

Besides a teacher and lecturer, Dr. Boyd is a self-taught archeologist who leads archeological digs in Israel each summer. This summer Boyd will take 25 students to Beer-Sheba in the southern part of Israel.

Boyd moves about the room with coordinated grace, stopping to point out Beer-Sheba on one of the large maps of the Holy Land hanging in his office. Next to the map is an extraordinary display of cooking pots and other vessels unearthed during Boyd's many archeological digs. He has another private collection at home of ancient Palestinian lamps that covers a span of 5,000 years.

Boyd first became intrigued with archeology during a tour of the Middle East in 1956. He joined an expedition in 1963 and has been digging in Israel almost every summer since then. The digs are really a "shoestring operation" financed partly by Tel Aviv University in Jerusalem and by Dr. Boyd. On occasion UNC has helped fund the trips, but usually Boyd looks for money wherever he can find it.

This summer, as in the past, Boyd will be educational director of the dig. Although UNC students will not receive any academic credit for the expedition, they will attend lectures by Dr. Boyd on historical geography and the interpretation of archeology. As he puts it, "it's important that the students feel they're not just moving dirt."

In 1973 the expedition made a significant discovery when it unearthed an ancient Semitic horned altar corresponding to various Old Testament accounts. This summer Boyd will concentrate on a 65 foot well believed to be mentioned by Biblical patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Describing himself as a "Christian theist", Boyd readily admits that archeology has provided him a deeper, more intimate relationship with the Bible. Although he says Biblical studies are not "in" like they were 15 years ago, Boyd's classes are consistently filled. There are 33 students this summer in his class, "The Origin and Significance of the Bible", but enrollment generally exceeds 200 during the regular school year.

Students comment on his spellbinding, effortless style and his ability to make Biblical characters come alive.

"He's the best I've had since I've been here," said a junior education major. "You can tell he really believes it," one girl said. "He must be a preacher; he's so enthused about everything."

Yet in spite of his rapport with students, his classes are in no way "slides" and are generally considered quite difficult. He demands strict attention in class and gives frequent tests. Some students described the tests as "picky" and felt that the course was "too complex" to be crammed into the short summer session.

Boyd tries to avoid "preaching" in the classroom, but admits, "it's difficult to divorce yourself from your world view." He does not believe that a "confessional approach" to the Bible has any place in a secular institution, but instead strives for an objective evaluation of the data.

Any "preaching" he does is confined to Sundays when he often substitutes for ministers who are sick or out-of-town. Although he has never had a church of his own, Boyd holds a doctorate in theology from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va.

In his 25 years at Carolina Boyd has watched student attitudes shift, change and



Dr. Bernard Boyd

perhaps come full circle. He describes the campus upheavals of the 60's as "crazy times" when he was once struck by a student in his own classroom. He concedes however, that student unrest produced a "terrific idealism" and forced the country to look at the "impossible mess" it had created in Vietnam and Cambodia.

abc southeastern Theatres

Carolina LAST DAY!
FRANKLIN STREET

3:15
5:10
7:05
9:00

JACK LEMMON
WALTER MATTHAU

THE FRONT PAGE

Starts FRIDAY!

Week- Days
7:00 A Return to Chapel Hill of the Academy Award Winner for Best Foreign Picture
9:15 ROGER CORMAN Presents **FRANCO CRISTALDI'S FELLINI'S**

Sat.-Sun.
2:30
4:45
7:00
9:15 **AMARCORD** ("I REMEMBER")
Distributed by NEW WORLD PICTURES

Late Show
Fri.-Sat. 11:30
HAROLD & MAUDE

Quik FOOD MART
300
W. ROSEMARY ST.
CORNER OF CHURCH & ROSEMARY
Chapel Hill, N.C.
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PHONE 942-3011
NOW Varsity NOW
1-3-5-7-9
MGM presents
Jack Nicholson
Maria Schneider
Antonioni's
"The Passenger"
Released thru United Artists Metrocolor PG

PHONE 967-4737
Plaza 1 3rd Big Week
ELLIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN 3:45 6:15 8:45

CLINT EASTWOOD
THE EIGER SANCTION
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE - TECHNICOLOR

PHONE 967-4737
Plaza 2 Starts Tomorrow
ELLIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN 3:30 5:25 7:20 9:15

Christmas is coming early this year. And it's murder.
SILENT NIGHT EVIL NIGHT

PHONE 967-4737
Plaza 3 2nd Big Week
ELLIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN 3:30 6:00 8:30

PARAMOUNT PICTURES CORPORATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH NAT COHEN PRESENTS
A JOHN BRABOURNE RICHARD GOODWIN PRODUCTION
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S "MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS"

PG COLOR ANIM PRODUCTION A PARAMOUNT RELEASE

Last Time Today
THE GODFATHER, PART II
3:30 and 7:30