

Acting, design highlight show of Synge satire

By JOHN BEHM
Staff Writer

As dramatic fare goes, a satire about a young Irish hooligan who beats his father with a shovel may not be the most savory stuffing for the theatre-going palate. Students of 20th century drama may recall that during the first run of John Millington Synge's *Playboy of the Western World*, the poet Yeats had to defend the comedy in front of a howling, unattracted mob of Irish nationalists.

There was no one to defend the UNC Laboratory Theatre's production of the Synge satire this weekend, but then there were no screams of protest from the intimate Graham Memorial audience. Under Jane Barrett's perceptive direction, this turn-of-the-century grotesque of inverted Christian morality solicited only laughter and appreciative applause.

Jack Couch, a third year MFA candidate, was brilliant as the endearing rascal Christy Mahon, the type of hero later popularized by J.P. Donleavy's episode novel *The Ginger Man*. Couch's interpretation of the character as a lovable ruffian, full of "savagery and fine words" did not slight Synge's intent. The Christy Mahon that Couch gave the audience was both brutal and brutally manipulative of the villagers who befriended him. He was a villain who attempted to kill his own father and then



DTH/Scott Sharpe

20th century drama 'Playboy of the Western World' ...evokes appreciative response from audience

tried to convince others that he was a hero, not a fugitive. A villain, yes, but not without vitality and wit, not without a colorful passion for a better life.

Cynthia Mitchell (Pegeen Flaherty) and Lamis B. Faris (Widow Quin) successfully portrayed the two alternatives for love and protection open to Mahon. Pegeen, lusty, sensitive and naive, was the ideal dupe for Christy's amorous advances; she was taken by his good looks and good name. Widow Quin as portrayed by Faris, was herself a refugee from Christian morality. Her more worldly, jaded nature encouraged complicity with the pagan Christy. In soliloquy, she described her loneliness and frustration in terms that Christy was beginning to experience himself.

Perhaps the greatest comic characterization in the satire was Shawn

Keogh, the milktoast crusader for virtue, played by Ralph Weeks. An apostle of the unseen "Father Riley," Keogh demonstrated Christian charity by surrendering his own clothes and a ticket "to the western states" to the outcast Christy so that he might find refuge from the gallows elsewhere.

John Joseph Gallagher was overwhelming as Christy's father, Old Mahon, who somehow survived his son's attack as well as a hundred other injustices that he bewailed in a never-ending song of sorrow.

Once again, a student-cast lab production has highlighted UNC's rich array of theatrical presentations. Special plaudits go to Suzanne Wilkin's costuming and Kay Coble's convincing set design.

202 of the Carolina Union.
ECOS is having a meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 213 of the Carolina Union.

There will be a general meeting of the Undergraduate Political Science Association at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Room 351 Hamilton Hall.

AED will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Room 103 Berryhill Hall.

The Christian Science Organization will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday in the Carolina Union. Please check at the desk for the room number.

AA Book meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at the Community Church.

The UNC Individual Events Speech Team will hold elections at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 Bingham Hall.

ACTIVITIES TODAY

There will be a short talk on Job Opportunities for Romance Language majors at 3:30 p.m. in the South Gallery meeting room.

The Carolina Forum Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. in 207 of the Carolina Union.

The UNC Table Tennis Club will meet at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Tin Can.

The UNC Raquetball Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in

UPCOMING EVENTS

The UNC Raquetball Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in

Campus Calendar

Public service announcements must be turned in at the box outside the DTH offices in the Carolina Union by 1 p.m. if they are to run the next day. Each item will be run at least twice.

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THE Daily Crossword by Norton Rhoades

- ACROSS
- 1 Woel
- 5 Of a poem
- 9 Allow to fight
- 14 Corrosion
- 15 Chanel
- 16 From the Boot: pref.
- 17 Major or Minor
- 18 Svelte
- 19 Cafe patron
- 20 Borscht
- 22 Study of meanings
- 24 Valuables
- 26 Upsets
- 27 Mercatorial items
- 29 Bonn pronoun
- 30 "Lavender Hill —"
- 33 Proof of security
- 37 Prison, in England
- 38 Senseless
- 39 Silkworm
- 40 Grasslike plant
- 41 Force
- 42 Worked out ingredient
- 44 Japanese outcast
- 45 Lake fish
- 46 Approach
- 47 Snow leopard
- 49 Cossack leader
- 53 Crooked promoter
- 57 Trap
- 58 Bagnold, et al.
- 59 Cupid
- 61 Point of a fork
- 62 French decree
- 63 Verdi opus
- 64 United
- 65 Starting golfers
- 66 Lively dance
- 67 Depend
- 12 A Waugh Bluffs
- 13 Condition
- 21 Landed Major
- 25 Andre, e.g.
- 28 Avoid (with "of")
- 30 Shopping place
- 31 Seep
- 32 Extorted money from
- 33 Faction
- 34 Military division
- 35 Frog
- 36 Work unit
- 37 One giving a warranty
- 40 Commands
- 42 Zola heroine
- 43 "— and Sympathy"
- 45 Visitors
- 47 More peculiar
- 48 Spooky state
- 50 Lobster
- 51 Synthetic material
- 52 Indigent
- 53 Substance
- 54 About
- 55 Father
- 56 Traveled
- 60 — soda

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

TRAPS SAKI AMAT
RAGUE OPE LORY
ORAGI INE FAGI IN
RUM FOND LARIE
PARODY JOSE
HOT PAWL SEW
GOODNESS STUDE
EARN ETHOS HIDE
MIDFA SANCTITY
SIAO SIKI W HAW
ENCORE SASH ELLI
RAREEARTH METALS
TRED DIET ERNIE
AYES SAWS LASSO

Crossword grid

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Fine acting fuels 'Horsepower'

By BOB ROYALTY
Staff Writer

A theater regular who is wary of small traveling troupes would have been pleasantly surprised by *Horsepower: An Electric Fable* by Jo Carson performed by The Road Company from Tennessee this weekend at the Art School in Carr Mill Mall. The message of the play, a protest of energy use in the South, outshined the enthusiastic but unpolished presentation.

Horsepower was not, however, merely a plug for conservation. Closely tied to the myth of Prometheus by its theme and mythical qualities, the play explored the consequences of man's continuous efforts to understand and control his universe.

The center of the plot is a tapestry, woven by the Fates of ancient Greece, in which all men see their dreams. Harold and Betty Everybody visit the tapestry and see their own farm. They return home to work on this dream and have a son, Isaac, who becomes fascinated by his parent's tales of the magical tapestry. He leaves home to see it for himself and cuts his dream, a horse, out of the tapestry.

The hole in the tapestry disturbs the natural order and the other characters in the play. Everyone who ever had a dream, from Charlemagne to Einstein to Jimmy Carter, falls through the hole.

The Everybodies start the road to their degradation by taking in, "for a few pennies a month," more electricity than they will

ever need. In Act Two, Harold and Betty lose the farm and take on a "real job" at the Snake Oil Company. They are replaced by machines; the man who invented the machines is replaced by a computer. An international conglomerate takes over the Snake Oil Company.

Isaac, meanwhile, has been caught by the Fates and takes on the task of mending the rent in the tapestry.

Horsepower did not depend on the weak plot but let other aspects carry the performance. The humorous sequences were strengthened by some energetic acting. Emily Green as Snake Oil Sue and Lucinda Flodin playing the flighty Louise were the highlights of the evening, along with Dennis Frederick as James the evil businessman. Tupper Cullum and Christine Murdock, who played Harold and Betty Everybody, were uninspired.

The music in *Horsepower* was a strong point. Almost continuous bluegrass background music by Rod Stipe tied the play to its Tennessee mountain roots. Lucinda Flodin gave a cute rendition of "I'm so Blue, I'm Radioactive," while other original songs, such as Stipe's "No Nuke Blues," added an extra dimension to the show.

The message of *Horsepower* was clear, pertinent and well-presented: man, with his tendency to go too far, has disrupted the natural order by his pursuit of knowledge and power. The humanistic philosophies the play contained, however, were hazy.

8 p.m. today through Friday.

Gallery

Morehead Planetarium Gallery—Marine Paintings by Myron J. Becker today through Thursday.

Horace Williams House—Works by 30 area sculptors today through Feb. 29.
Art School Gallery: Carr Mill Mall—Paintings and prints by Nina Freifelds today through Feb. 4.

Nite Life

Cat's Cardie—Hands tonight. Norman Blake Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Station—St. Regis String Band tonight. Rolly Gray and Sunfire Wednesday.

Variety

Poetry Reading—Gregory Orr will read from his works at 8 p.m. tonight in Greenlaw 223.

Weekday Fare

Cinema

Campus

Thunder Over Mexico and A Time In The Sun—Two films made from Sergei Eisenstein's aborted Mexico film. At 8 p.m. Tuesday in Carroll Hall. Free with UNC student ID.

The Old Dark House and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde—Two horror films from the 1930s. At 8 p.m. Wednesday in Carroll Hall.

Lecture

Andrew Young—The former U.N. ambassador speaks at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Memorial Hall. Admission \$1.

Theater

The Gin Game—UNC Playmakers' Repertory Theatre presents D.L. Coburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning play at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Feb. 10 in Playmakers Theatre. For reservations call 933-1121.

Planetarium

The Planet Seekers—A science fiction show about aliens scrutinizing the planets in our solar system. At

Radio

Inside Track—Featured albums are: The Rockets' No Ballads today; Steve Howe's debut album Tuesday; and Dexter Gordon's Great Encounters Wednesday. Aired each night at 11 p.m. on WXYC-FM 89.3.

In Focus—Featured artists are: Jesse Winchester and Barefoot Jerry today; Dave Mason and

Laura Dean show 'boring'

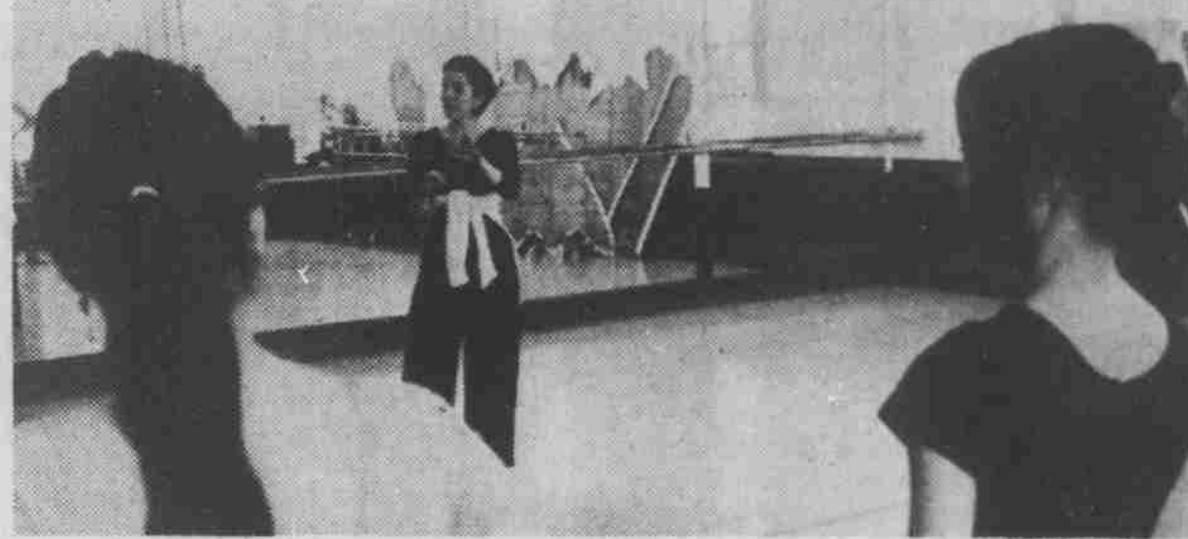
By DONNA WHITAKER
Staff Writer

The six dancers and the two musicians of the Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians may have had a good time performing Saturday night in Memorial Hall, but their performance put most of the audience to sleep.

The performers displayed only a touch of professionalism, using live music and care-free dance steps in the performance of their two selections.

Pattern was 20 minutes of pure monotony. Various flowing hand movements were used occasionally to vary the continuous calypso and spinning steps.

At one time during *Pattern*, the dancers moved in a circle, each moving their hands in an individual manner. This was about the only display of



DTH/Matt Cooper

Performance seen as original ...but lacking in meaning

individualism in this selection. Adding some variety to the performance, *Dance* started with repeated "Hep, hep, hep," and other verbal sounds. During this 35-minute performance, however, things became boring again, with two seven-minute spinning sessions and about three four-minute clogging sessions being performed to the monotonous beat of of two autoharps.

Of course, the dancers' hands helped keep members of the audience awake. Although in *Dance* the group suddenly

stopped clogging from a fast beat and started dancing to a slow beat, making swan-like and other motions with their hands, the effect of the sudden change was lost as the group became overused again.

To top the entire selection off, the group harmonized a few "Doo-dah's" while a male dancer blended in variations of the word "dance," as if meditating.

Although Laura Dean is an experimenter with dance, she seems to have forgotten to add a basic ingredient to her dance technique—meaning.

Carolina Twin 3:00 5:00
7:35 9:15
Kramer vs. Kramer
DUSTIN HOFFMAN

Carolina Twin
STAR TREK
4:30 7:00 9:30

Gene Kelly **Leslie Caron**
Best Picture of 1954
AN AMERICAN IN PARIS
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Tues Meat Roulade with peas \$2.99
Wed Texas platter with baked potato or french fries \$2.99
Thurs Spaghetti or Fried Shrimp \$2.50

date line
CHIEF: As you anticipated, the Kennedy campaign crew is depressed and at odds with each other over where they should be going...
LEFT: You're reactioner!
RIGHT: You're the reactioner!
with cub reporter, Yeek Yemima

SEND US YOUR SCOOPS!
Daily Tar Heel
933-0245

THIS IS MY REPORT ON WHICH I HAVE WORKED VERY HARD
EXCUSE ME, MA'AM
BEFORE I BEGIN, PERHAPS YOU COULD TELL ME...
ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR MEDIA COVERAGE?

DOONESBURY
HI, VIKTOR! HOW'S IT GOING?
DON'T ASK, I'M OFF FOR ANOTHER DAY ON THE RACK...
I JUST RECEIVED THE KREMLIN'S LATEST VERSION OF OUR LITTLE AFF-GHAN AFFAIR. WE'LL BE COUNTING ON YETI-NAM'S SUPPORT, PARED.
REMEMBER LAST YEAR WHEN YOU INVADDED CAMBODIA AND CLAIMED YOUR 150,000 TROOPS WERE ADVISERS?
LISTEN TO THIS, "ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A WICKED AFF-GHAN FAIR..."
YOU'VE TOPPED IT!