

Curious see 'Tales' movie

By DAVID TEAGUE
Staff Writer



Some of the characters in Pier Paolo Pasolini's *The Canterbury Tales* ...attendance at x-rated film reported good

About 45 minutes into the X-rated movie *The Canterbury Tales*, produced by Alberto Grimaldi, a UNC student turned to his friends and said, "OK, whose idea was this anyway?"

His three fellow movie-goers all moaned and denied responsibility.

But Carolina Theatre manager John Hartley said attendance at the Italian film had been good enough for its run to be extended through Sept. 25.

"The film was only intended to run this week, but if attendance is good this weekend, we may extend it even longer," he said.

The Canterbury Tales, which began at the Carolina Theatre last Friday, is a film version of Chaucer's classic collection of stories by the same name. The film was written and directed by Pier Paolo Pasolini and was the winner of the Golden Bear Award at the 1972 Berlin Film Festival.

Though *Canterbury Tales* is sacred to any scholar of English, Hartley said many people in the crowds came to see it because they were simply curious.

The film follows the basic pattern Chaucer set out in his tales. A small group of travelers assemble at an inn on their way to Canterbury. The host suggests that to pass the time on their journey, each traveler should tell a tale. The one who tells the best tale will earn a free dinner on their return from Canterbury.

For the remainder of the film, the pilgrims compete for the prize with a series of wild stories about the devil capturing souls, a woman who is burying one husband and marrying another at the same time, two Cambridge students who attempt to outwit a dishonest miller while plotting to have sex with his wife and daughter and the antics of two crafty flatulent lovers.

Many English professors said they had heard of the film and expressed a desire to see it, but a spot check by *The Daily Tar Heel* could find none that had.

One history professor referred to the film as a good example of "barnyard humor." Some said they

halfway suggested that classes go see the film.

"The film did no justice to the book at all," Bobby Oast, a graduate student said. "As it said at the end, it was told for the pleasure of telling them, but they ignored Chaucer's morality for the sake of the images."

A Chapel Hill resident, who asked not to be identified, called the film "grossly graphic" and said that the last tale was "simply too much." "The Summoner's Tale," tells of a greedy Friar who goes to hell and discovers where Satan keeps the friars. There are bizarre scenes of satanic excrement that mysteriously changes into friars being blasted through the air.

Though there are shots depicting sodomy, fellatio,

intercourse and nudity in the film, most of the acts are hinted at rather than displayed with close-up shots.

The sound track is dubbed English—not middle English—and the wife of Bath rattles off 20th-century obscenities to her husband.

One of the theater's candy clerks said the film was only doing well because it was X-rated.

"Guys will come to anything X-rated," she said. "A lot of them have been getting up and leaving too, when they saw that it didn't have much sex in it."

Tales depicted in the film are: "Merchant's Tale," "The Friar's Tale," "The Cook's Tale," "The Miller's Tale," "The Wife of Bath's Tale," "The Steward's Tale," "The Pardoner's Tale" and "The Summoner's Tale."

'Company' opens season at Carrboro Art School

By LAURA ELLIOTT
Arts Editor

The Gallery Theatre of the Carrboro Art School will open its 1980 season this weekend with a production of Stephen Sondheim's *Company*.

Linda Wright, assistant director of the Carolina Union and director for the production called the Tony Award-winning musical, "bittersweet."

Written in 1969, a year described by Wright as "a strange time in our nation," *Company* is a "view of marriage—working, not working and the interrelations between couples." Five married couples explore their lives with the main character, Robert.

Lyrics are as revealing of characters and theme as is the dialogue, Wright said. "For instance, 'Being There' includes these lines: 'somebody hold me too close, somebody hurt me too deep, somebody sit in my chair and ruin my sleep...' That song expresses the quality of having a relationship as opposed to being alone," Wright said.

Company was featured on a PBS special as being one of the most innovative musicals in our nation, said Wright. "It's pithier and not as frothy as most musicals."

But there is sweet in the bittersweet, Wright said. "We wanted to have both qualities and avoided being heavy-handed with the material."

Wright has also directed *The Country Girl* and *A Life in the Theatre* for the Gallery Theatre; *Lady House Blues* for

the UNC Fine Arts Festival; and *U.S.A. and Look Back in Anger* for Duke.

Stephen Barefoot, a member of the Chez Conderet Cabaret show, stars as Robert.

Other cast members include Sharon Pigott, Tom Marriott, Elizabeth Wheeler, Gary Rzasa, Jenny Terrenoire, David Terrenoire, Susan Smith, Harry Wyatt, Deborah Christie, Don Madison, Wendy Scharfman, Sybil Thornton and Marna Alderice and as "The Vocal Minority," Pamela Perkins, Lynn McClure and Sybil Thornton.

Auditions were held after UNC students had returned to Chapel Hill. "To give them a chance, we cut into our rehearsal time," Wright said. Two UNC students, Wheeler and Rzasa, are in the cast. Stage manager Marsha Decker is also a student.

"I was really pleased from the auditions and through the rehearsals with the number of talented people in this area," Wright said.

Company will be presented at 8 p.m. Sept. 19-21 and 26-28. Call 942-2041 for information.

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