Company gets new director

PRC plans to put on six plays

By LEAH TALLEY
DTH Staff Writer

Enthusiasm is again present in the Playmakers Repertory Company this year with the help of the new artistic director of the PRC, David Rotenburg, and an ambitious and varying selection of plays.

Rotenburg, who has lived in and around New York for the last ten years before coming to Chapel Hill as a visiting associate professor, directed his first professional play at the age of 18. He has been free-lance directing and teaching since then. This year, in addition to filling the post of PRC's artistic director, Rotenburg will also direct several PRC productions and teach an undergraduate acting class.

Last season, the post of artistic director was not filled, perhaps leading to some confusion concerning student casting in PRC productions. Rotenburg's objectives, however, are clear. He plans a genuine effort to bring out local talent and to solidify the bonds between the graduate drama program and the PRC. Rotenburg said that "students are owed access to the PRC, not necessarily in the form of roles." Quality is still the final criterion in casting. A balance of professional and student actors can be achieved, and Rotenburg seems to be finding success. The PRC's first production, *The Front Page*, has a cast of 23 including 11 students.

The five plays selected (and one new play to be announced at a later date), Rotenburg describes as "an honest attempt to address the issues of today through the use of major works of entertainment." He said *The Front Page* is a "true American vision of the world" which lends comic insight to today's journalism.

The schedule for this year includes: *Betrayal*, the most accessible Harold Pinter play and the first Pinter play performed at UNC; *The Glass Menagerie* which Rotenburg sees as Tennessee Williams' most important play, *Twelfth Night*, which Rotenburg calls Shakespeare's most misunderstood work and *Angel Street*, which is better known as the film *Gaslight*, but has a few surprises of its own.

In addition to the PRC schedule, the Department of Dramatic Art will present three plays: *Romeo and Juliet, A Christmas Carol* and *Frankenstein*. Auditions for these productions are open to all interested persons. Laboratory Auditions will have five productions this year that will be directed by faculty members. Auditions for *Romeo and Juliet* and *Outward Bound*, the first lab theater, will be held on Sept. 8 and 9.

Rotenburg sees the PRC as a library, a resource untapped by the University and the students and he hopes to change this through increasing student casting, reducing student ticket prices, and uncompromising quality standards. He said, "this University has a commitment to quality ... quality basketball, quality football. There is no reason why we can't have quality theater."

This season, two season ticket plans are being offered to UNC students. Students may attend five plays for $15, (all plays except *Angel Street*) on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. No exchanges can be made and these are general admission tickets. The second option is attending all six plays at a cost of $25 at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or Sundays, or at 2 p.m. Sunday.

These are reserved seating tickets. Also, rush tickets will be available at the door when the productions aren't sold out for $3.50 on weekdays and $4.50 on weekends. Lab theater tickets are free and Department of Dramatic Art productions are $3.50 for students, PRC season ticket holders, and senior citizens, and $2.50 for children under the age of eleven. Tickets are $4.50 for the general public.

Rotenburg, new Artistic Director
... adds enthusiasm to PRC plays

Performances and workshops to be given by dance companies

By TOM MOORE
Arts Editor

The Triangle Dance Guild in association with the Carolina Union Performing Arts Committee will present three major dance companies at UNC this year for performances and workshops. Season tickets are available now at the Carolina Union Box Office: prices are $11 for students, Union Privilege Card holders and senior citizens, and $15 for all others. Tickets for individual performances are $5.50 and $7.50.

Gus Giordano and his Jazz Dance Chicago will perform at 8 p.m. Jan. 18 in Memorial Hall. Gus Giordano, whose innovative company has gathered worldwide acclaim by dance critics, is considered one of the foremost choreographers to fuse jazz elements with the lexicon of classical ballet and modern dance.

Betsy Kline in *The Kansas City Times* said Giordano's "presentation makes Bob Fosse's current hit, *Dancin'* look lethargic in comparison. Giordano and his troupe really know what jazz dance-ballet is all about and they splash their energies all over the stage in a celebration of their art."

The American Ballet Theatre II will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 27 in Memorial Hall. The American Ballet Theatre II was formed in 1972 to bring quality dance to places that could no longer accomodate the financial and technical requirements of the American Ballet Theatre. Like the American Ballet Theatre, ABT II in its repetoire ranges from romantic and classical ballet to contemporary and modern dance. Walter Terry in *The Saturday Review* said ABT II was stunning. "Exuberant, vital, and excellently trained in their age bracket, the young dancers are among the best to be found anywhere in America."

The Jose Limon Dance Company will perform at 8 p.m. March 25 in Memorial Hall. The late Jose Limon, considered one of the greatest male dancers of his time, founded this company in 1946 which exists today as one of the two senior modern dance companies in the United States. Since Limon's death, the company has continued with a repertory including the best of Limon's work as well as works by current masters and talented new choreographers.

The theater

Many groups plan wide variety of shows

By TIM MOONEY
DTH Staff Writer

Among the theatrical offerings in the Triangle area this year are a number of performances sure to interest any theater fan.

Many theaters express a deep concern for the patronage of University students and offer student discounts.

Following is a list of the area's theaters, including shows, dates, times and telephone numbers:

CARRBORO

Gallery Theater of the Art School, Carr Mill Mall. Student rates to be announced. Phone 942-2041. *What the Butler Saw* by John Orton. Fridays through Sundays, Sept. 18-Oct. 4. *Wait Until Dark*, a thriller by Frederick Knott. Fridays through Sundays, Nov. 6-22. *Getting Out* by Marsha Norman, Feb. 5-21. *The Grass Harp*, a musical based on a play by Truman Capote. April 10-May 2.

Also at the Art School, the N.C. Arts Council will present The Poet's Exchange, poetry readings for the community. Sept. 20: Debra Polk, Thadious Davis and Paul Jones. Oct. 11: Poetry in Translation. Nov. 1: Charles Edward Eaton.

DURHAM

Duke University Players, Branson Theater on Duke's East Campus. Tickets range from $2.50 to $4. Phone 684-3181. *The Lover* by Harold Pinter, Sept. 11-12. *Hotel Paradiso* by Georges Feydeau. Oct. 14-17, 21-24. *Carbonated Rainbow*, a show of original Players' material. Nov. 20-22, Dec. 3-6.

Durham Theater Guild, Durham Arts Council Building, 120 Morris St. Tickets are $3 at the door; for reservations call 688-4259. *Three Penny Opera.* Oct. 9-11, 16-18 and 23-25. *I Remember Mama.* Dec. 4-6, 11-13.

RALEIGH

Raleigh Little Theater, on Pogue Street. Student tickets range from $2 to $6. Call 821-4579 for reservations. *I Do, I Do*, an energetic musical. Wednesdays through Sundays, Sept. 18-Oct. 10. *Diary of Anne Frank*, a powerful classic. Tuesdays through Sundays, Nov. 20-Dec. 6. *You Can't Take It With You.* Tuesdays through Sundays, Jan. 29-Feb. 14.

Theater in the Park, Pullen Park. Tickets for students are $3; phone 755-6058 or 755-6936. *Evening of Dance*, a dance festival. Sept. 11-12. *Night of the Iguana*, Sept. 25-26, Oct. 2-4. *Spoon River Anthology*, Oct. 30-Nov. 1 and Nov. 6-8. *A Christmas Carol.* Dec. 12-15. All tickets $5 to $7 this performance only.

Thompson Theater, student theater at North Carolina State University. Student tickets available by calling 737-2405. *Lysistrata.* Oct. 30-31 and Nov. 4-7. *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf.* Nov. 18-21. *The Madrigal Dinner*, special early evening show. Dec. 1-6.

Stewart Theater, repertory theater in the N.C. State student union. Season tickets available Aug. 27. Individual show tickets at door, if any remain. *Sugar Babies*, in Memorial Auditorium. Sept. 30-Oct. 1. *Victor Borge*, also in Memorial Auditorium. Oct. 15-16. *The Importance of Being Earnest.* Oct. 24 only. *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, part of children's series. Oct. 31. *Feats*, another children's performance. Nov. 14. *Children of a Lesser God.* Nov. 22. *The Country Wife.* Dec. 12.

flicks

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moves to activism while filming the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

But why go on my word alone? Get one of those nifty film calendars and research things yourself.

The films this semester will be shown in the new Union Auditorium which is equipped with a much better sound and projection system than the antiquated Carroll Hall. And the screen in the new auditorium is much wider so purists won't have to watch their films with a third of the image on the wall or cut off by a conniving projectionist. Since the auditorium is new, the film staff is going to be much stricter on the food and drink policy, so you have been forewarned.

Also as a final personal note, I hope that the hissing and talking that often goes on in the free flick will end this semester. If you want to carry on go see *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* or stay at home and annoy your neighbors. This is probably a futile plea I know, but maybe things will be better. Whatever happens I'll see you at the movies.

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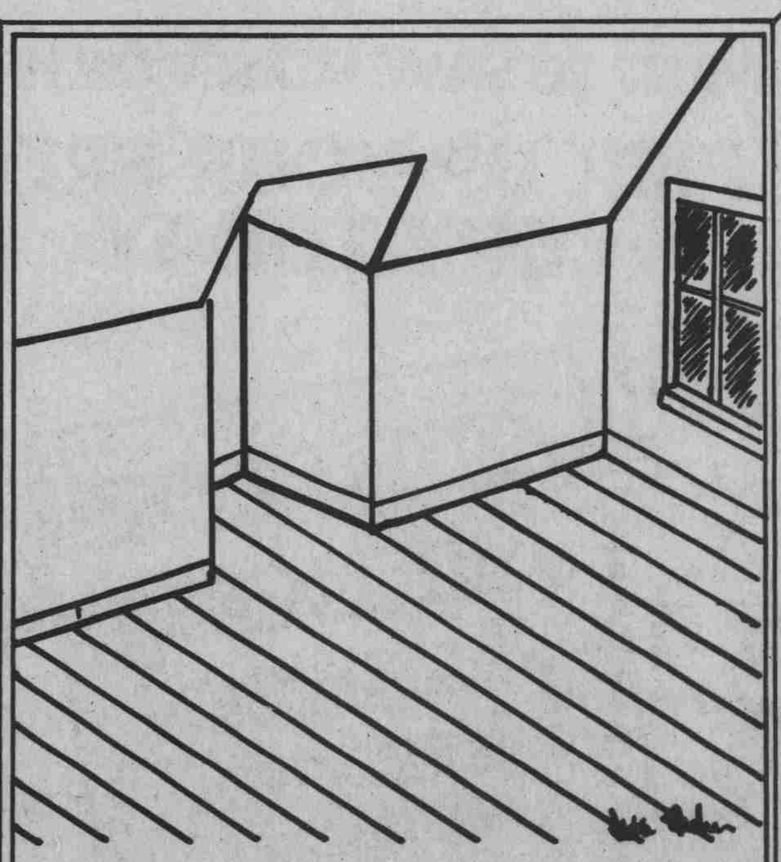

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