

Edwards' 'Victor/Victoria' disappointing

By JOHN MAASS
Staff Writer

In his Pink Panther series and later in *10*, Blake Edwards blended the innovative use of classic slapstick with clever comic dialogue, leaving his escapist audiences as happy as clams. *Victor/Victoria*, Edwards' most recent farce, lacks both of these elements. Admirable performances by Julie Andrews, James Garner, and Alex Karras (of Mongo fame) fail to compensate for the flood of burned-out gags, the vacuous script, and the absence of a truly funny figure.

Edwards' plot seems to have potential on paper. Victoria (Andrews), an English soprano, finds herself down and out in Paris in 1934, too cute to make it as a cabaret singer. She finds succor in Toddy (Robert Preston), a middle-aged night club performer who is also out of work.

Watching Victoria in men's clothing after her dress has been soaked in a storm, Toddy comes up with an ingenious scheme. He convinces Victoria that she could pass for a man, and could become the most believable female impersonator ever.

Victoria poses as a foreign count who has become Toddy's lover, and soon she's a sensation with her bogus drag act. King Marchan (James Garner), a Chicago nightclub owner with underworld ties, catches her show in his search for new acts. The consummate tough guy gets suspicious and exasperated when he feels physically attracted to "Victor." Victor is just as frustrated when she falls in love with King, but feels compelled to maintain

her facade because she values her career.

Andrews' performance as the vivacious and sensitive Victoria, and Garner's portrayal of the chauvinistic King Marchan are both commendable, especially due to the low quality of the script. Just as Louis Armstrong could not have won over an audience with a kazoo, Andrews cannot excel with lines like, "If I have to strap down my bosom for the next twenty years, they're going to end up looking like empty wallets."

Most of the slapstick is just as ineffectual as the trite dialogue, especially the two almost identical nightclub rumble sequences. One of the few exceptions is a scene in which a starving Victoria swoons after watching a bald-headed palooka slowly eat a succulent éclair.

While *Victor/Victoria* fails on a humoristic level, Edwards is successful in slipping in some superficial criticism of society's intolerance of divergent sexual preferences. He makes light of King's preoccupation with his machismo, and his unwillingness to accept that he could be attracted to a man.

Victoria, Toddy, and King's bodyguard (Karras) gradually nurture an understanding of homosexuality in King, the real tough guy. But even after he accepts the alternative lifestyles he must affirm his manliness by starting a brawl in a bawdy working-class bar.

For anyone who is aware of Edward's achievements as a director/writer, *Victor/Victoria* can be painful to watch. The only solace to be found is the realization that this film does not reflect the potential of the comic whiz.

PRC announces its season for next year

By MARC ROUTH
Assistant Arts Editor

Playmakers Repertory Company, the professional resident theatre company based on campus, has announced their season for the coming year. *Life on the Mississippi*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, and *Pygmalion* are included in the PRC roster. In addition, the company will present a two play series of *The Greeks*, *The Cursed* and *The Blessed*.

"The desire of the audience to see plays done on a daring scale and to attend events of size, scope, and challenge has been a source of inspiration to the creative artists of this theatre," said David Rotenberg, artistic director. "We believe

that we have designed a season to satisfy such demands."

Life on the Mississippi will be the professional premiere of a new musical based on the famous Mark Twain memoir. Written by North Carolinians Bland Simpson and Tommy Thompson, the musical will feature the Chapel Hill-based band, the Red Clay Ramblers.

A Moon for the Misbegotten marks the return of Eugene O'Neill to the Playmakers stage, following successful productions of *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and *Ah, Wilderness!* to complete the Tyrone family saga.

Pygmalion is one of Shaw's greatest comic achievements.

The Greeks, which Rotenberg calls

"the most ambitious project ever attempted by PRC," is performed in two parts. *The Blessed* follows the vengeance wreaked by Electra and Orestes and their final redemption. *The Cursed* tells the story of Agamemnon's fateful return home to Greece.

The company is offering a special subscription package which includes all five plays with prices starting at \$20, and a special preview price for UNC students of \$15. In addition, an opportunity to purchase PRC plus, a subscription which includes the student productions, is also available for \$8. More information is available from the Graham Memorial box office, 962-1121.

The three student productions offered under the PRC plus option are *The Three Sisters*, *Ladyhouse Blues*, and *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. *The Three Sisters*, by Anton Chekhov, tells of three sisters stranded by their father's death in a provincial town and longing to return to Moscow. *Ladyhouse Blues*, by Kevin O'Morrison, is the story of five women who struggle through a hot summer in St. Louis in the final year of World War I. *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* is Bertolt Brecht's tale of two women who contend for a single child, the mother who abandoned it and the maid who adopted it. The schedule is subject to change.

Golf team seeks victory

By STEPHANIE GRAHAM
Staff Writer

The UNC men's golf team heads into this weekend's ACC tournament with consistent play and strong finishes to its credit, but it still lacks one thing—a tournament victory.

Last weekend in the Tar Heel Invitational at Finley Golf Course, the Tar Heels carded their fourth second-place finish of the season, losing to N.C. State by six strokes. Coach Devon Brouse thought his team played well.

"But I'm never pleased with a second place finish," Brouse said. "We have finished second a lot and shown a lot of consistency, but we are better than how we've played. It's time to quit saying that and start doing it."

The Tar Heels would like nothing better than to break through with a victory in the ACC tourney, which starts Friday at Rocky Mount's North Green Country Club. Last year UNC won the league title on that same course behind the leadership of John Spelman, who will be defending his 1982 individual ACC medalist honors.

"The course can be very long depending on how they set it up," Brouse said, "but it is a tough and fair test of golf—the best team will probably win."

The Tar Heels will take a lot of experience into the 54-hole, par-72 event. Seniors Spelman, Billy Williford (third place in last year's ACC tournament) and Todd McGrew will team up with junior Bill Plyler and sophomore John Inman.

Brouse said that he hopes that this weekend's tournament does not turn out like the Tar Heel Invitational, in which N.C. State led from start to finish while carding its third victory of the spring.

"State has obviously been the best team in the conference so far," he said. "I hope that on the last day in the tourney we are in contention. I just hope they do not blow everybody else away."

The Wolfpack also finished first to UNC's second in the Palmetto Classic last month, but Spelman said his team was not concerned with State's past success.

"The track record does not intimidate us," Spelman said. "We feel that we have as good a team as we have ever had at Carolina. We feel that we are the best team—there is no reason for us not to be able to win."

According to Brouse, four teams have realistic chances at winning the title and the NCAA bid that goes along with it. Besides UNC and State, Clemson and Wake Forest can also be counted on to perform well.

"It's different this year," Brouse said. "For the past couple of years only one or two teams really went in with a chance to win it all. This year there are four that could do it."

The possible bid helps make this tournament, as Spelman put it, "the biggest of the year for us except for the NCAA's." UNC will host the NCAA's on the famed No. 2 course in Pinehurst from May 26-29.



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Golfer John Inman putts out for par ... Tar Heels to play in ACC tournament Friday

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The program will feature two works, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore*, and Joseph Haydn's *Missa in angustis*, more popularly known as the "Lord Nelson" Mass.

Featured soloists will be Marjane Marvin, soprano; Joyce Peck, mezzo-soprano; Stafford Wing, tenor; and Frederic Moses, bass. The orchestra, which will perform with the choir, will be composed of UNC faculty members and members of the North Carolina Symphony. Admission is free.

Basketball star Leake to attend UNC

By LEW PRICE
Staff Writer

Another highly recruited basketball player recently announced plans to attend UNC next year.

This time the recruit is a 5'8" guard who averaged 19.9 points and 10 rebounds per game this season while shooting 53.5 percent from the floor.

But this is not another one of Dean Smith's finds. The player is Chapel Hill High's Pam Leake, who UNC coach Jennifer Alley says is one of the premier guards in the country. Leake becomes the first home-grown cager to play for the Tar Heel women.

"I wanted to play for UNC all along," Leake said. "Even though I had to consider offers from other schools like Tennessee, LSU and Georgia, I was pretty sure I'd be at Carolina."

Leake, who started playing basketball in the fourth grade when the guys would let her join them on the court, will give the UNC team quickness and depth in the backcourt as well as an added scoring punch.

A three-year starter, Leake scored 1,323 points during her high school career and led the Tigers to the 1981 state championship.

Alley said Leake would bring a great deal to the program and was a player of All-American caliber.

"I can see her contributing early," she said. "She has good fundamental skills and defensive ability, and her quickness will increase our transition game."

Although Leake possesses a great shooting touch, she is an all-around natural athlete who participates in tennis and softball. She said, however, that she is glad she stuck with basketball.

"In the tenth grade I got involved in some pickup games with college players," Leake said. "That's when I began to think I might have the potential to play at the college level."

Being highly recruited and playing in one's hometown could burden some young athletes with added pressures and expectations, but Leake said that for her it will be a case of extra moral support.

"I know most of the people around here, plus my parents will be able to see me play more often," she said. "All I'm thinking about is playing good team ball and blending in with those around me."

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