

'Foreigners' lacks on-stage focus

The "Me Generation" has spawned endless talk about failed relationships and missed connections, both in real life and in the arts. A conversation about misunderstandings is as likely to be overheard in a restaurant as read in Ann Beattie's short stories or seen in a Michael Weller play.

Joining the list of this vogue trend are three one-act plays by Candide Carrasco, which were presented this weekend at the ArtSchool under the collective title *Foreigners*.

Though well-acted, -directed and -produced at the ArtSchool, the plays suffer from structural weaknesses. Particularly in the first two plays, Carrasco overlooks two important elements of effective drama — conflict and communication.

In *Old Tangos* two friends come together after several years apart. But they never really touch.

Maria enters Isabel's apartment, bringing with her a gust of winter air and a flurry of memories. But the memories are mostly about her ex-husband, Ricardo. The audience learns all it can stand to know about the failed marriage — vomit, abortion and all. But it finds out next to nothing about Maria's friendship with Isabel.

Steve Murray

Review

The only information given is that the women were best friends, that in the past they had survived something together, and that their friendship will go on. Why, what and how aren't provided. The relationship never seems real.

Adding to the problem in this production were the performances of Jo Ferguson as Isabel and Susan Payne as Maria. Ferguson fit her role and the small theatre snugly, but Payne's characterization was too robust and toothy. The women seemed to be acting on different stages, and they never clicked as friends.

The second play, *Another Sunday*, chronicles the affairs of three homosexual roommates. But again, the central conflicts occur offstage, and nothing much happens.

With few exceptions (Harvey Fierstein and Joe Orton are two), playwrights tend to treat gay characters as *Pagliacci* figures laughing as their hearts break. Homosexuals are sketched as either frivolous or miserable, with no human zone in between. Carrasco falls into this trap.

Alex is misery. Lewis and Nathan, working as a team, are frivolity. They

bounce in like clowns to provide comic, camp relief when the mood grows heavy.

Tom Marshall as Nathan and Kyle Roberts as Lewis both pleased the audience with hyperbolic performances reminiscent of *commedia dell'arte*.

At one point, Alex, played a shade too darkly by Ward Virts, paced around the living room soliloquizing to his offstage lover, Jesse. Again, the main relationship — as with Maria and Isabel — was never dramatized, but was summarized, handed out like leftovers.

In both *Old Tangos* and *Another Sunday*, Carrasco seemed to observe the Greek dramatic unities too strictly. A single set and a single period of time are fine, but hearing about the central action instead of witnessing it makes for tepid theatre.

It is no surprise, then, that *Night Passengers* works best of the three plays. In it, characters known as He and She go home together after meeting in a bar, talk directly to each other, touch each other, and consequently connect with the audience.

Though the structure is no more complex than "boy meets girl" or "older woman snares young man," the play works.

Karl D. Vass as He generated a believable boyish spirit. As She, Coro Malaxecheverria, who co-directed with Carrasco, offered cosmopolitan allure and delivered some deft one-liners about Chapel Hill.

Except for a few lapses into melodrama and overstated symbolism (the three types of masks in *Another Sunday*, for instance), Carrasco's lines sound true, sharp and often funny.

The only real flaw is focus. Once the characters stop looking off into the wings toward distant lovers and instead pay attention to each other, the plays will become more than snippets of conversation. They will become drama.

Campus Calendar

The Carolina Student Fund/DTH Campus Calendar will appear daily. Announcements to be run in the expanded version on Mondays and Thursdays must be placed in the box outside the Carolina Student Fund office on the third floor of South Building by 5 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Wednesday, respectively. The deadlines for the limited editions will be noon one day before the announcement is to run. Only announcements from University recognized and campus organizations will be printed.

Today

- Noon CGA will have Voter Registration in the Pit until 2 p.m. Table will be in the Union if it rains.
- 3 p.m. Patrick J. Conway and Martin Eakes will speak on "Worker Ownership in Theory and Practice," 207 Hamilton.
- 6 p.m. MLK: The Dream Today Coalition planning meeting for April 4 in the Union.
- 6:30 p.m. UNC Model United Nations Club meeting, 470 Hamilton.
- 7 p.m. Carolina Students for Jim Hunt cookie pick-up in the Union. UNC with Hart voter registration drive meeting in the Union.
- 7:30 p.m. Di-Phi Speech Societies debate on Japanese imports, 300 New West, 933-8445.

Tuesday

- 5 p.m. CGA will sponsor a "Coming Out" workshop as part of Gay Awareness Week, in the South Gallery Meeting Room.

Campus Y's Footfalls Roadrace

organizational meeting. Call the Campus Y at 962-2333.

- 6 p.m. Delta Sigma Pi executive committee meeting in T-1 Carroll.
- 6:30 p.m. Delta Sigma Pi officer installation in T-1 Carroll.
- 7 p.m. NCSL weekly meeting and officer elections in the Union.
- Alpha Epsilon Delta presents Don Fidler to lecture on depression. Also elections for new officers in 105 Berryhill.
- CGA and AWS will sponsor speaker Lou Sawyer on "Special Issues Concerning Lesbians" in 209 Union.
- 8 p.m. UNC Young Democrats will hold a 4th District congressional candidates forum in the Union.

Wednesday

- Noon Environmental Seminar: Nicholas Ashford of MIT speaks on "Assessment of Risk Through Human Monitoring: Scientific, Ethical and Legal Considerations," in 331 Rosenau.
- MLK: The Dream Today. Rally in the Pit to be followed by an afternoon of programs in the Union.
- 4 p.m. Public lecture by Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary General of the UN, on the "Crisis of Confidence in International Affairs," in Gerrard Hall.
- 5 p.m. CGA will sponsor a lecture on

"Racism in the Gay Community," in 204 Union.

- 5:15 p.m. Lutheran Campus Ministry Holy Eucharist at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, to be followed at 6 p.m. by the Fellowship Meal.
- 7 p.m. AWS is sponsoring a lecture on women in films by Barbara Hammer in the Union. CGA will sponsor a discussion on "Gay Health" in 220 Union. UNC Seaba Club meeting on elections and summer and fall dive schedule in 109 Fetzer. Call 968-1271.
- 8 p.m. MLK: The Dream Today. Andrew Young, former ambassador to the UN and present mayor of Atlanta will speak in Memorial Hall.
- 10 p.m. Campus Eucharist sponsored by the Anglican Student Fellowship at the Chapel of the Cross.

Thursday

- 5 p.m. Film: "Pink Triangles" — a film about prejudice against gays presented as part of Gay Awareness Week; 218 Union. Call 962-4401.
- 6 p.m. UNC Flag Line try-outs practice — all students welcome — in the Tin Can. Check by the band office in the Union for more information.
- 6:30 p.m. The Navigators small group Bible studies in the Union.
- 7 p.m. CGA presents a speech on "Gays and Religion," in 301 Dey.

hearings

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margin, with Barlow supporting an allocation of \$2,000.

"I agree 100 percent that it's a way to reach black students in and out of the state, but we're looking at a lot of money to cut back," Barlow said.

Four other groups went before the Committee Friday and Saturday. The Fine Arts Festival was allocated \$14,453;

Carolina Quarterly was allocated \$4,255; the Media Board was allocated \$356; and Students Older than Average was granted \$244.

The remaining allocations will not be any easier for the Committee to determine. With 22 student-supported organizations still to go before the Committee, there is \$108,060 left to allocate, according to figures provided by Robert-

semester

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conditions of life in such countries."

Jones said, "We had classes half of the time we were at sea. There were also port lectures and assignments related to the ports we visited."

"It is quite a shock. You must definitely come back to the United States with a different perspective — a perspective on what poverty is really like."



Mayor **ANDREW YOUNG** will present a lecture **Wednesday** April 4 **8:00 pm** Memorial Hall Admission is Free Presentation of the Carolina Union Forum Committee

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