

Commedia lots of comedy in one

By STEVE CARR
Staff Writer

Commedia dell'arte (working definition): "This is real theatre, not pansy type of theatre." Audrey Toler is a member of the troupe Commedia Dell'ArtSchool, a group specializing in this special genre of Italian comic theatre.

"The commedia style involves characters used for hundreds of years," Toler said. "It's visually exciting, the costumes colorful, there's music, slapstick, acrobatics." "Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, the Three Stooges, Buster Keaton, they're all sources of material," said Bob Lehnburg, also a member of the troupe. "But we aren't stealing nothing."

A typical feature of *commedia dell'arte* is the use of *lazzi*, or physical humor that doesn't advance the plotline but is very funny. "It's a physical aside," Lehnburg said. "It's usually funny — it might always be funny — but not necessarily so. We got a bunch of *lazzi* in our show, needless to say."

Another feature of *commedia dell'arte* is the amount of improvisation which the performers must do.

"Commedia rose out of the streets in Italy," Lehnburg said. "You might have to get the attention from a dogfight. It (improvisation) involves the use of the whole body — a fantastic amount."

"The troupe, they all work together," Audrey Toler said. "Everybody's in charge."

Instead of using improvisation during performance, however, the Commedia Dell'ArtSchool has a different technique.

"We get material from improvisation," Lehnburg said. "We work 'improv' to get a script, and then we follow that script."

However, Lehnburg said this did not spoil the freshness of the experience.

"There's no fourth wall," he said. "We're delivering ideas, jokes, looking the audience straight in the eye. It gets them up because they don't expect it."

Commedia Dell'ArtSchool will perform Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 942-2041 for ticket information.

Accused gunman held in Central Prison for Monday's 31-hour siege

From Staff Reports

Ralph Burnette, a Durham man accused of firing at law enforcement officials during a 31-hour siege Monday, is being held at N.C. Central Prison, said Sergeant Crocker, prison spokesman.

"He's been sent here to stay until the trial," Crocker said, and added that he knew nothing about whether Burnette's psychological condition had been evaluated.

Mabel Horney, a spokeswoman for Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh, said they had not heard whether Burnette would be sent there for evaluation.

"He's not here yet, and we've not heard that he's coming," she said.

Burnette was reportedly armed with a .22-caliber rifle and barricaded himself inside his home Monday morning and would not surrender to police who were attempting to serve him legal papers

requested by his mother, Julia Booth. The papers concerned an involuntary commitment to a psychiatric institution.

Police tear gas canisters started a fire and forced Burnette out of his 601 Mallard St. home around 3:40 p.m. No one was injured in the standoff.

Lt. George B. Hare, of the Durham Public Safety Department, is handling the case and was not available for comment.

Program held for Ethiopian Relief Fund

A musical program to raise money for the Ethiopian Relief Fund will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the First Baptist Church at the corner of North Roberson and Rosemary streets.

Admission is free to the program, sponsored by the Orange County Rainbow Coalition of Conscience. Donations will be given to the Ethiopian Relief Fund through Africare, a Washington, D.C., based organization.

"There is no way we can sit in Chapel Hill and be comfortable when there are people in such dire need," said Margaret Miller, committee chair of the event. Organizers chose Africare because it not only sends food money to Ethiopia, but

also sends people skilled in agriculture and nutrition, she said.

The program will give University and community members a chance to pray and give together in a meaningful way, said Coalition member Jean Wagner.

Performances will include: the Black Student Movement choir singing gospel music; the Carolina Blue Quartet singing barbershop music; the New Life Singers; a group of Chapel Hill High School students singing two religious numbers; a duo called Route 2 from Chatham County singing folk music;

and Rosette Breeze of Hillsborough and Prince Taylor Sr., a housekeeping assistant at UNC, singing spirituals.

Marion Phillips, associate dean of student affairs, is master of ceremonies. He will also share some of his poems.

The Rainbow Coalition started with the Jesse Jackson campaign for president, and the Coalition of Conscience combined in 1984 to address grassroots issues in terms of politics, education, woman's rights and similar issues, said Coalition member Fred Battle.

— MICHI OBERLAENDER

Jam

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sponsored by Roman Wings will be handed out Friday at the Pi Kappa Phi Burnout and on Saturday afternoon at Springfest sponsored by Henderson Residence College, Kaminsky said.

Concert organizers were hoping for a good turnout despite the postponement, she said, adding that she didn't think students would be tired of concerts after the two events Friday and Saturday before South Campus Jam.

Ferguson said the concert had a budget of approximately \$5,000, with \$2,400 being paid to the bands and the

remainder going for publicity, T-shirts, rent for Taylor's and a small amount that was lost in equipment rentals when the concert had to be postponed.

A check to *The Daily Tar Heel* paying for an advertisement of South Campus Jam at Taylor's was signed by John Kelly, an agent for Consolidated Entertainment Inc., the owner of Elliot's Nest.

Brian Gallagher, acting manager of Taylor's, said Thursday he did not find it unusual that Kelly had paid for advertising.

"It's probably something to keep publicity up," Gallagher said. "They (Consolidated Entertainment) would want to keep the publicity up if they are going to buy."

Kelly could not be reached for comment.

Melanie Wells also contributed to this story.

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