

Kaleidoscope

Carrboro ArtSchool: creative expression forum

By Aniket Majumdar
Staff Writer

The Center for Visual and Performing Arts, also known as the ArtSchool of Carrboro, is a watershed in the creative and performing arts world of the Triangle. Located in what used to be the warehouse of the historic Carr Mill which was converted into a shopping mall in 1979, ArtSchool is a unique center providing a forum for area residents to learn, teach, perform and participate in various artistic activities.

According to its mission statement, "the purpose of ArtSchool... is to promote, nurture and challenge the creative spirit of the people of Orange County and the surrounding areas..." In its 11 year history, ArtSchool has consistently and admirably promoted and nurtured the creative efforts of area residents. The center's growth bears testimony to that.

It began in 1974 in a loft in downtown Carrboro, largely due to the efforts of Jacques Menache, a fine arts graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Thirty-six students registered for the first painting classes. Now, ArtSchool is hailed as "one of the real success stories in the arts in North Carolina."

By 1979, seventeen different programs were being offered and the registration increased to 300. Art-

School was able to move to its present location in 1979, largely by active and financial support of the community and the town of Carrboro. It currently uses three studios, one audio room, one darkroom, the Gallery Theater — a stage and a two-tier viewing area — and a small bar. The total area covers 7,000 square feet.

A meager yearly contribution allows you to become a "friend" of ArtSchool. At present it has 1000 Friends and a mailing list of 7000. An estimated 60,000 people benefit annually from ArtSchool's activities. Its 1984-85 operating budget is \$300,000, of which 65 percent is to come from earned income. Friends contribute about 12 percent and grants from state and federal programs, the town of Carrboro, other local governments, Triangle area corporations and private foundations across the state make up the remaining 23 percent.

Since its inception, teaching and learning have been the heart and soul of ArtSchool. The Spring '85 calendar lists classes and workshops in the areas of dancing, dramatics, visual arts, music and creative writing. As a serial learning experience, you could take lessons in "Tai Chi," Chinese dance-exercise, incorporate its techniques and consolidate those by taking lessons in "Styles of Acting", then go on to design your

own posters by taking the "Five-and-dime Graphic Design" course. You could try your hand at "Basketry" and "The Mountain Dulcimer" to attract people to your shows or just take a shortcut and learn to spin a yarn by attending "The Art of Fiction Writing." There is an extensive curriculum for teenagers and children as well. The Children's Art Summer Experience, CASE, where children from the age of seven through twelve participate in a variety of artistic activities, is a case in point.

Variety, quality and easy accessibility are three guidelines under which ArtSchool strives to operate. At present there are six cooperatives of artists — actors, musicians, puppeteers, poets and photographers — getting expense-free meeting and studio space, performance space and administrative assistance for events from ArtSchool. This unique arrangement has permitted local talent to turn into professional performers. There are three professional resident touring companies at ArtSchool. *The Touch Mime Theatre*, a group which came from Florida to give a performance in 1976, never went back and became ArtSchool's first resident group. At present it is the only professional mime troupe in North Carolina. *Puppet Express*, another resident company, produces original plays as well as adaptations in various puppet styles. Its members conduct

workshops and lecture-demonstrations from time to time.

Transactors, the professional theatre group, is in its third year. It was formed by some members of the Actors' Co-op to improve acting and production quality. It has concentrated on contemporary American one-act plays but will launch its first full length play: "Waiting for Godot" in the fall. The group is currently working on "Knucklebone," a play loosely based on the "Hansel and Gretel" theme, highlighting the ramifications of child safety. The group also participates in audience-inspired improvisation sessions.

ArtSchool has been highly successful in bringing musicians and music groups on to the stage. Its Sunday Jazz Series has attracted artists from all over the state. Many classical and folk musicians, domestic and otherwise, stop over to give performances. Local bands playing from reggae to rock are popular attractions for ArtSchool's dance concerts.

ArtSchool's popularity has been growing. According to Jacques Menache, the executive director, this growth can be directly linked with the growth of the community outside of the University. The increasing

importance of the Research Triangle Park is drawing more and more professionals to the area. On the other hand, the area continues to remain attractive to older citizens and retired people. Surprisingly, only 10 percent of ArtSchool's current Friends are students. Now that ArtSchool is on the verge of launching intensive fund raising drives for its move to the proposed Main Street location, it should try to attract support from the University. Recently, the ArtSchool and four individuals purchased the old Piggly Wiggly supermarket, which will probably house the ArtSchool by 1986. With the increased floor space, 16,000 square feet in all, there will be room for the proposed television and video productions unit and sculpture and ceramics studio.

ArtSchool remains the Triangle area's most promising meeting and breeding ground for local talent in the artistic disciplines. With unrestricted community access, it has developed into a magnet for creativity. It deserves our support, especially those of us who believe that art is for life and for people and who have faith in the maxim "even great artists had to begin somewhere."

Rose's book tells rush like it is

By Peggie Porter
Kaleidoscope Editor

Margaret Ann Rose is onto a good thing, but I wonder how her lifelong sorority sisters feel about the money (whoops! tacky subject) she is making from her book, *RUSH: A Girl's Guide to Sorority Success*. After all, she is selling secrets previously unavailable to the masses. With this guide in hand, Almost Anyone can get in a sorority.

If you are new at Carolina (or any university) and want to make friends through rushing and/or pledging a sorority, this book may help you or it may not. When I got through laughing at this seemingly harmless self-parody of a book, I wondered if a young freshman might actually harm her chances of getting into a sorority by paying more attention to these scads of rules than to looking for a sorority in which she can be happy. Ms. Rose puts so much emphasis on getting picked that the rushee could forget that hers is the ultimate choice.

Here are charts like What Sorority Girls Do In Their Spare Time (versus, of course, What They Don't

Do). They absolutely do not watch the news or read newspapers — "too depressing and boring." Put this down right now. Come to think of it, why did Ms. Rose's publisher ask us in such flattering terms to review her book? No one who could use it will read the paper anyway.

Since you can't talk about current events at rush parties, Rose suggests Acceptable Conversation Topics, such as "Elitist kinds of sports you play, (for fun, not competition)," and as a last resort, "Cute Shoes — look down and comment."

Once you get in, your worries aren't over; your pin can be "jerked" at any moment if you violate any of the sorority's unwritten (until now) standards. The most important of these is "Sorority girls don't have sex." This section might better be headed "Sorority Girls are discreet about their sex lives." While hapless Greek drunks may pass out at a date's house after a party, (as long as it isn't a frat house), they simply don't sleep there on purpose.

I can't help wondering, after skimming *RUSH: A Girl's Guide to Sorority Success*, whether Ms. Rose

isn't merely jumping on the bandwagon driven by Lisa Birnbach, author of *The Preppy Handbook*. Most of her suggestions are common sense, accessible even to the common masses. (e.g. "Don't wear clothes that have been perspired in." Come on, Marge, we all do our best). Birnbach did a better job at laughing at herself; she knew her subject couldn't be taken seriously on a how-to basis. Just as Birnbach lost a little objective sarcasm with *The College Handbook*, so does Ms. Rose as she writes about a subject near and dear to her (she was rush captain for the ZTA's at UTx).

But I wish I'd had this book when I was a freshman...





Stanley H. Kaplan The Smart MOVE!

PREPARATION FOR:
MCAT • GMAT • LSAT



2634 Chapel Hill Blvd
Suite 112
Durham NC 27707

919-489-8720
919-489-2348

WEEKDAY RENTAL (Sun.-Thurs.)

- 1 movie
- VCR Rental
- \$5.00**

MONTHLY RENTAL

- 5 movies per month
- VCR Rental
- \$39.95***
per month

*deposit may be required

THE VIDEO BAR

Step Up To The Bar
For The Best In Video

Parkway Plaza-Durham
Eastgate Shopping Center
Chapel Hill

942-1701

- FOR RENT:

 - Beta & VHS Tapes
 - Video Recorders

FOR SALE:

 - Accessories
 - Blank Tapes

FREE CLUB MEMBERSHIP and

2 for 1
movie rental

Rent One Movie at
Regular Price —
Get Another Movie
Rental FREE!
with coupon only • limit
one
Expires Sept. 19, 1985



FREE AEROBIC CLASSES

2 weeks (8/19-8/30)

Monday-Friday 5:30-6:30 PM

- Coed classes • Enthusiastic Staff
- Free Juice Bar

Chapel Hill Carrboro YMCA
980 Airport Rd.
942-5156

Come
Join
Us!

Convenient to campus • On the bus line