Play exhibits director's effort WEEK'S FARE

By ANIKET MAJUMDAR

Is there life after birth? Is life a chronicle of the faithful few who keep their "appointment" in spite of ignorance and apathy?

Is man a "helpless, hopeless, impotent comic" who has to talk and talk and talk just to temporarily postpone the silence of his own desolation?

Such is the flavor of questions provoked by Samuel Beckett's Waiting for Godot. Even to a casual theatergoer, who is caught in the middle of "Nothing happens, nobody comes, nobody goes ...," these questions are not merely

rhetorical. Such is the power of the play. Waitting for Godot is being performed by Transactors Theater Company, a resident affiliate of ArtSchool, Center for Visual and Performing Arts. The play will be performed through Saturday.

In his now famous interview with Tom Driver, Beckett commented: "If

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life and death did not both present themselves to us, there would be no inscrutability. If there were only darkness, all would be clear . . . but for us who are neither Greek nor Jansenist there is not such clarity. The question would also be removed if we believed in the contrary - total salvation. But where we have both dark and light we have also the inexplicable. The key word in my plays is 'perhaps.' "

For a director wishing to stage a Beckett play, the major part of the effort would be spent in trying to represent some of the "perhaps" elements through dramatic movements. Waiting for Godor, though labelled as a tragicomedy by the playwright himself, does not lend itself easily to simple-minded expositions. Its superficial comedy is grotesquely exaggerated while the tragic elements do not rely on conventional theatrical devices. Mary Ruth, who

directs the Transactors' production. does well to interpret the play "in an extremely comic light," providing the viewer with a tangible frame of reference without obscuring the basic premise of the play. Her efforts are richly complemented by the cast of five actors.

Mark Miller's Vladimir and Martha Brown's Estragon conjure up for us the tramp image - often morose, sometimes hilarious, but always humane. Brown infuses some unintended "womanliness" in the original male role without detracting from the characterization. Tom Marriott as Lucky matches the other performers in a noisy monologue reminiscent of James Joyce.

Sally Nussbaumer's Pozzo was in sharp contrast to her controlled acting in Serenading Louie, a recent Art-School production. Her exaggerated movements, supposedly in keeping with the director's intentions, brought out the superficial comedy, but on one occasion obscured an important

A Polish director once commented: "We do Brecht when we want Fantasy. When we want sheer Realism, we do Waiting for Godot." When the only prop is a barren tree and the only characters are two (sometimes indistinguishable) pairs behaving like clowns and a boy messenger, when the only question is " Will Godot show up ?" and the only answer is "Not today but tomorrow," then there is just one option: to go see the play. Nobody said it would be easy. And however you look at it, Godot remains a challenge. It has its rewards too.

TODAY

247he Blue Angel will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union Auditorium. Waiting for Godot will be performed by Transactors Theatre Company through Saturday at 8 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 929-

2896 for ticket information. Return of the Comet is the current show at the Morehead Planetarium. Call 962-1248 for more information.

Dr. Robert J. Glaser will deliver the Merrimon Lecture on "The Medical Center: Distinguished Past, Uncertain Future" at 8 p.m. in 103 Berryhill Hall.

The North Carolina Symphony will perform with pianist Kristin Merscher at 8 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh. Call 733-9536 for ticket information.

The Relics and E-Canban will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more

FRIDAY

25 The Texas Chainsaw Massacre will be shown through Saturday at midnight and The Cotton Club will be shown at 4:30. 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union Auditorium.

Call 966-3128 for ticket information. Contra/Square Dance will sponsored by the Triangle Country Dancers at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Student Center. Call 942-

1268 for more information. Steven Wright, comedian, will perform at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Ring Theatre, The Flying Pigs and Naked Ramblers will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call

967-9053 for more information. The Hipmovers will perform at Rhythm Aliey. Call 929-8172 for more information.

SATURDAY

26 The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeosie will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union Auditorium.

Paintings by Vernon Pratt will be displayed through Jan. 5 at the North Carolina Museum

The Ciompi Quartet will perform at 8:15 p.m. in East Duke Building at Duke.

The C.P.A.'s will perform at 9 p.m. at the Turning Point, Call 929-2037 for more

One Plus Two and The Spell will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more

The Blue Grass Experience will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

SUNDAY

27 The Big Sleep will be shown at 7 p.m. and The Big Heat will be shown at 9:30 p.m. in the Union Auditorium.

The Actor's Nightmare will be performed by the UNC Lab Theatre through Monday at 4 and 8 p.m. in 06 Graham Memorial Hall. The North Carolina Symphony will perform at 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 733-9536 for ticket information.

Giocille Terenzio, pianist, will perform at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall Auditorium. Writers Lawrence Naumoff and Michael McFee will read excerpts from their works at 4 p.m. at the ArtSchool, Call 929-2896 for

more information. Haves Samir, marimbist, will perform at 7 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 929-2896 for more information.

Over the Top will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information. MONDAY

28Senator Nancy Kassebaum will deliver the Weil Lecture on American Citizenship at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

TUESDAY

29The UNC Jazz Band will perform at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall auditorium. The Academy of Ancient Music Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall Call 962-1449 for ticket information.

United Way Halloween Celebrity Benefit featuring Mike Cross, George Hamilton IV. and Dennis Wolfberg will begin at 8 p.m. at MOVIES

Plaza I - Marie: The True Story at 3, 5:10, 7:20 and 9:35 ends today. Krush Groove starts Friday at 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and 9:30, Plaza II Commundo at 3:20, 5:20, 7:20

and 9:20 ends today. American Ninja starts

the Hotel Europa. Call 929-7273 for ticket

The Mark Isham Group will perform at 8

p.m. at the Community Church. Call 942-2023

WEDNESDAY

30 The Innocents will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union Auditorium.

Terminal Mouse will perform at Cat's

The Relativity Tour will perform at 8 and

10 p.m. at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for

Cradle, Call 967-9053 for more information.

for ticket information.

more information.

Friday at 3:20, 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20. Plaza III Remo Williams: The Adventure Continues at 3, 5:15, 7:35 and 9:45. Varsity I - Agnes of God at 2:15, 4:15, 7:30 and 9:30 ends today. Kiss ofthe Spider Woman starts Friday at 2:15, 4:30, 7:15 and

Varsity II - Plenty at 2, 4:15, 7, and 9:15. Varsity Lateshows Kiss of the Spider Woman and Plenty at 11:45 Friday and

Saturday. Carolina Blue - Jagged Edge at 7 and 9:15. Carolina White Back to the Future at 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:30 ends today. Private

Function starts Friday at 3:30, 5:30, 7:30 and Carolina Classic - You Can't Take It with

You starts Friday at 2:15 and 4:45. Carolina Lateshows The Exorcist at 11:45 and An American Werewolf in London at 11:30 Friday and Saturday.

Ram I-Silver Bullet at 7 and 9:10 ends today. After Hours starts Friday at 7 and 9:10, weekend matinees at 2 and 4:10.

Ram II Rambo: First Blood Part 2 at 7 and 9:15 ends today. Better Off Dead starts Friday at 7 and 9; weekend matinees at 2 and

Ram III Sweet Dreams at 7 and 9:15: weekend matinees at 2 and 4:15. Ram Lateshows Against All Odds and

The Wall at 11:45 Friday and Saturday

Compiled by Elizabeth Ellen, arts editor.

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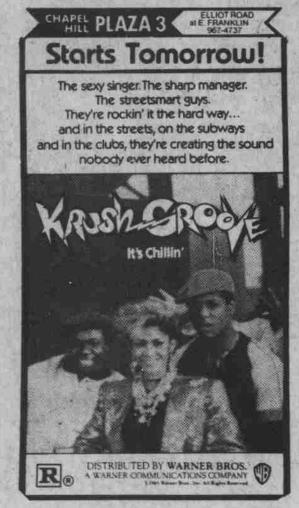
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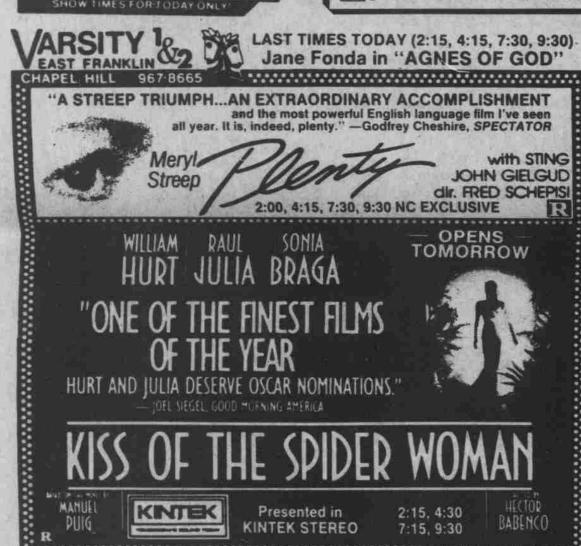
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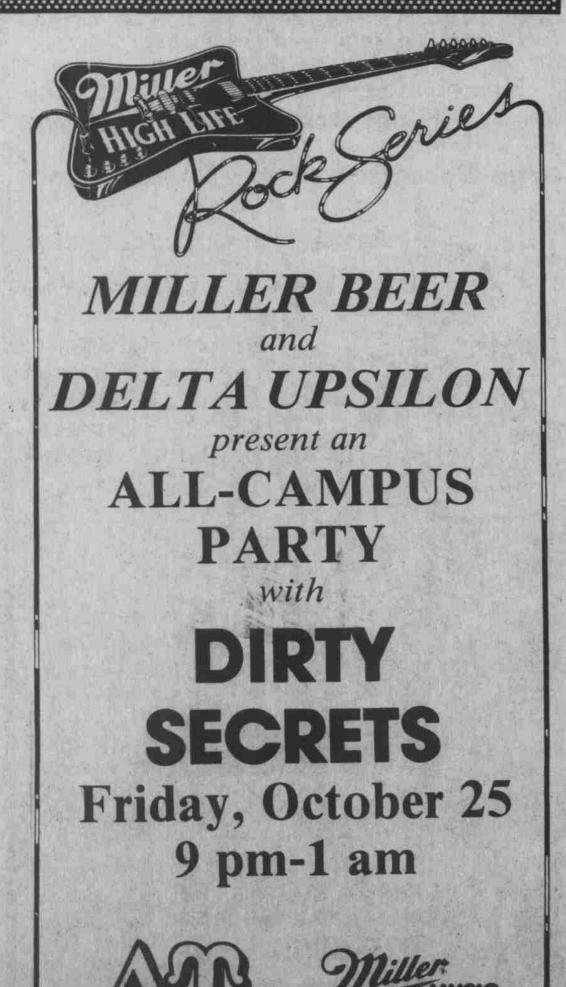
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