

Play exhibits director's effort WEEK'S FARE

By ANIKET MAJUMDAR
Staff Writer

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.

Waiting 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

theatre

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 Godot*, though labeled as a tragic-comedy 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 is in sharp contrast to her controlled acting in *Serenading Louie*, a recent ArtSchool production. Her exaggerated movements, supposedly in keeping with the director's intentions, brought out the superficial comedy, but on one occasion obscured an important monologue.

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

24 *The 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 Relies and E-Canban will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

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 be 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 Rammers* will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

The Hipmovers will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

SATURDAY

26 *The Discard Charm of the Bourgeoisie* 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 of Art.

The Ciampi 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 information.

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

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.

Giocelle 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.

Hayes 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

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

TUESDAY

29 The 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

the Hotel Europa. Call 929-7273 for ticket information.

The Mark Isham Group will perform at 8 p.m. at the Community Church. Call 942-2023 for ticket information.

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 Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

The Relativity Tour will perform at 8 and 10 p.m. at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

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 — Commando at 3:20, 5:20, 7:20 and 9:20 ends today. *American Ninja* starts 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 of the Spider Woman* starts Friday at 2:15, 4:30, 7:15 and 9:30.

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 9:30.

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 4.

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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