

Play to open despite cast change

By DEANNA RUDDOCK
Staff Writer

Christopher Durang's play *The Actor's Nightmare* became a somewhat ironic project for Robin Whiteside, director of this week's UNC Lab Theatre production, when she faced the unusual situation of having to cast a new person in the leading role just over a week before the show's opening Oct. 27.

Due to a physical injury, Whiteside said, the original lead actor was not physically or emotionally up for the part. To compensate for this loss, Whiteside cast Roderick Cameron, who had originally played two smaller parts, into the leading role and then filled his two positions with people who had previously auditioned for her.

The changes in cast left only the three women in the play in their original roles. Whiteside said that because of this a completely different play developed from the one they had been working on for the past four weeks.

Parade to start at Connor

The Homecoming parade will start today at 3 p.m. on Raleigh Road in front of Connor dormitory. The parade route will take it from there to Franklin Street, Columbia Street, South Road, Stadium Drive and will end at the Ramshead parking lot, where there will be a pep rally.

"It's ironic that it is called an actor's nightmare," said Whiteside, a senior from Asheville. "I cannot help but think that it is fascinating for the actors to work with what amounts to a new show a week before it opens."

Whiteside said that the changes would add more of a push to the play, which deals with the comical aspect of a man facing a performance in a play for which he does not know the lines. The play shows what happens when a man dressed in pajamas suddenly finds himself involved with characters he has never seen before in an ever changing performance of plays that he has not rehearsed.

"It's the classic nightmare you have of being on stage and you don't know your lines," Whiteside said. "People are looking at you for some sort of entertainment or meaning or something and all of a sudden you are failing."

Whiteside said that Durang's play was unique because it took this concept and multiplied it by a thousand. "Not only is this guy on stage, but he's not even an actor — he's an accountant," she said. "It's just a big cosmic joke that someone somewhere is playing on this guy."

Cameron, a freshman who now plays the lead, said that he did not find the transition from playing the minor characters to becoming the lead difficult. He said that he learned the part very quickly because he had become so familiar with it during rehearsals.

"At first I was seeing the part completely from the outside," Cameron said. "I was not having to think about it at all. I was just reacting to it which helped a lot."

Cameron said that seeing the role performed by someone else had made him more critical of his own performance. "I had to criticize myself much more because I had seen what someone else's efforts had produced."

Whiteside, who had performed in a production of the play at UNC-G when she was a student there, said that comparing the play before and after the cast changes was like comparing apples and oranges. She said that, although she knew the play and knew what she was looking for, all of that changed with bringing in new cast members.

Serena Ebhardt, one of the members of the cast who has remained in the same role throughout the cast changes, said that the play dealt with a common experience that everyone had. "We all have had this dream where we are in a situation, possibly on stage, that we are totally unprepared for," said Ebhardt, a sophomore from Raleigh. "It's a tragic situation that when looked back upon is kind of comical."

Whiteside said that she hoped to bring out this kind of dark humor without relying on funny bits, such as people tripping on stage, or the use of slapstick. She uses minimal stage props and some lighting for effect. "What I tried to do is bring out the comedy of the situation and of the characters," she said. "In other words, I'm directing it straight and the comedy hopefully will come from the words that Durang wrote down and the people will speak."

The Actor's Nightmare will be performed by the UNC Lab Theatre Sunday and Monday at 4 and 8 p.m. in 06 Graham Memorial Hall.

Wright's dead-pan humor deceptively simple

By SALLY PONT
Staff Writer

What short paragraphs are to journalism, Steven Wright is to comedy. His choppy, flat delivery is so dead-pan that it might compel Robert Young to switch to caffeinated coffee, but the jokes are deceptively simple. Packed into every low-key one-liner are the cerebral wordplay and intellectual flights of fancy that are making Steven Wright famous.

You've seen him on *The Tonight Show*, you've seen him on *Late Night with David Letterman*, and you'll see him at Homecoming. So Homecoming is a bit of a nonsequitur. He might not get it either, but the sheer weirdness of it will be just his style. Like Bob Hope before him, he makes non-sequiturs a part of his act. In an hour onstage he does 175 random jokes that go something like this:

"The first time I ever read the dictionary, I thought it was a poem about everything."

"One day I was stopped by a policeman for speeding. He said, don't you know the speed limit's 55 miles an hour? I told him I'm not going to be out that long."

"A lot of people are afraid of heights. I'm afraid of widths."

Whether the jokes are funny ha-ha or funny strange, the fact of the matter is, they're just funny. It's hard to believe that all this came out of stage fright. The first time Wright performed, at the Comedy Connection in his hometown of Boston, he was so scared that he simply lost all expression. The combination of his insane material and the expressionless delivery worked so well that that he's kept it up ever since.

It's not hard to believe that he started out as a painter when he was in school. He was painting abstract and surreal images that he simply translated into words when he started making jokes. As he describes them, most of his jokes are like describing pictures.

"I live in a house powered by static electricity. You use the blender, we have to rub balloons on our heads."

He studied radio at Emerson College in Boston and received a liberal arts degree. He actually intended to go into radio, but at the last moment decided to go out West and ski for a few months. When he came back, he decided to give

comedy a try. He "didn't have an apartment or a girlfriend. I had nothing to lose. I thought I might as well try it now. I didn't want to be 50 years old selling insurance and wondering what would have happened if I tried."

Wright had wanted to be a comic since he was seventeen, but he wasn't sure whether it was his style. Wright describes himself as an introvert. He would be the last person at a party to put a lampshade on his head. Still he's always had that odd stuff running through his head. It just took stage-fright — his own natural shyness — to make his humor come out right.

Awkward, flat, weird, abstract — these words don't capture the excellence of Wright's humor. Maybe the words don't exist. There's no one quite like the fellow on this planet, which leaves Wright's origin up to question.

"I got a postcard from a friend. It was one of those satellite pictures of the entire earth, and on the back he wrote, 'Wish you were here.'"

Steven Wright will perform at 8 tonight in Memorial Hall.

Campus Calendar

Friday

5:00 p.m. Carolina Committee on Central America hosting Rice and Beans Film Festival until 9:00 p.m. with dinner and 3 films on Central America, in 211-212 Union. Admission is \$3.00.

7:00 p.m. Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship - Off Campus meeting at Chapel Hill Bible Church. Russell McGraw will speak on "Homosexuality." All are welcome.

8:00 p.m. Carolina Athletic Association reminds everyone that Comedian Steven Wright will help UNC celebrate Homecoming 1985, in Memorial Hall. Tickets still available.

EARN \$90⁰⁰
per month

Donate plasma and study while you help others.

SERA-TEC BIOLOGICALS

Hours
8:30-5:00
109½ E. Franklin
942-0251



XEROX COPIES
BINDINGS
PASSPORT PHOTOS
SELF-SERVICE COPIERS
7 DAYS A WEEK

RALEIGH
3008 Hillsborough St.
832-1196

CHAPEL HILL
105 N. Columbia St.
933-2679

Coming soon
DURHAM
705 Ninth St.
(next to the Post Office)
286-1809

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE
American Heart Association

PREPARE FOR:

GRE BIO



TEST PREPARATION SPECIALISTS SINCE 1938
Call Days, Evens & Weekends
2634 Chapel Hill Blvd.
Suite 112
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 489-8720; 489-2348

Permanent Centers in More Than 125 Major U.S. Cities & Abroad.

Royal Park
Kingswood
Estes Park
Booker Creek
UNIVERSITY LAKE

Avoid the lottery blues. Apply now!
All apartments on the bus line to UNC. Fantastic Social Program. Call today for full information. 967-2231 or 967-2234. In North Carolina call toll-free 1-800-672-1678. Nationwide, call toll-free 1-800-334-1656.
The Apartment People

JAZZ
Experience Casual Elegance... Today!
Fresh Seafood, Chicken, Steaks and Great Jazz Music.
Live Entertainment Friday & Saturday
The Brass Rail
1301 East Franklin Downstairs 933-1323
SEAFOOD

STUDENTS • FACULTY • STAFF • FRIENDS • ALUMNI
COME PIG OUT WITH US
1st Annual **HOMECOMING BAR-B-QUE**
(with all the trimmings)
Sun. Oct. 26, 11 am until Kickoff
Intramural Field—Bring coupon below for all-you-can-eat at \$6.00
Sponsored by The General Alumni Association
Advance tickets from the Alumni Association
Alumni House • 230 S. Columbia • 962-1208
Or at the BBQ/SEE YOU THERE!
\$1.50 DISCOUNT COUPON \$1.50
One dollar and fifty cents
\$6.00 All-You-Can-Eat Admission with this coupon
Additional \$1.00 Off with Student ID

Rather be Running
Tips on running for beginners and advanced
Tuesday, Oct. 29
7:00 p.m.
206 Union

YOGA
Monday, Oct. 28
7:30 pm
208 Union

Four Your Fitness Notes on Nutrition
Wednesday, Oct. 30
8:00 pm 226 Union

Rub it in Massage
Tuesday, Oct. 29
7:00 pm
210 Union

A Carolina Union **WEEKLY FEATURES** presentation

UNC BASKETBALL IS HERE!!
Tickets are now available for both Blue-White basketball games as well as the exhibition against the Greek National Team.
Blue-White #1 will be held on Saturday, October 26th after the Florida State football game. Blue-White #2 taps off after the Clemson football game on November 9th. The exhibition against the Green National Team will be played on Saturday evening, November 16th. All games will be played in Carmichael.
Students can pick up their tickets at Carmichael from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Additional guest passes will also be available for all of the above mentioned games. Please have your UNC I.D. card and athletic pass with you. We expect these games to be total sellouts and therefore urge you to get your tickets early.

Hardee's

PROMOTION CONCERTS
And RAMPAGE 85
presents

STEVEN WRIGHT
Tonight, October 25, 1985 at 8:00 pm
Memorial Hall UNC-CH
All Seats Reserved \$12.50
Tickets go on sale for **UNC-CH STUDENTS ONLY** at Noon on Monday and Tuesday, October 14 & 15 at the Film Auditorium Box Office in Carolina Union. Available to the General Public starting Wednesday, October 16 at the Franklin St. Record Bar