

'We are all orphans': PlayMakers' latest

By **KELLY RHODES**
Staff Writer

Imagine being a street kid with no one but a brother to watch out for. Imagine stealing things for a living. Imagine bringing a drunk home to live. Then imagine someone trying to kill him.

This premise is what Lyle Kessler's Obie Award-winning play "Orphans" is all about. The play, which will be presented by PlayMakers Repertory Company the next few weeks, will feature the talents of a guest director, a guest artist, a drama teacher and resident member.

Maureen Heffernan, acting artistic director of the George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, N.J., is visiting PRC for the first time to direct "Orphans." PRC artistic director David Hammond had viewed Heffernan's work in New Jersey and invited her to do the play.

"I hadn't seen 'Orphans' performed; I had only read it," Heffernan explained. "But I had considered doing it earlier."

Heffernan said she loves to direct children's plays, musicals and contemporary dramas. "However, my favorite is always the one I'm working on," she added.

Actor Jim Pritchett from Lenoir is returning to PRC for his fourth visit to take the role of Harold in "Orphans." Pritchett is best known in the television world as Dr. Matt Powers on the soap opera "The Doctors."

Pritchett is, at best, described as a man of many talents. He graduated from UNC-CH in 1945 with a law degree. After two years of private practice, he returned here to earn his

B.S. in dramatic arts. In between all this, the U.S. Army found time to send him to the University of Chicago's Meteorology School. "The only thing I wanted to do that I didn't was study more of the natural sciences," he said. "You know, plants, animals and stars."

Pritchett has a multitude of commercials, off-Broadway shows, summer stocks, movie extra scenes and Broadway productions to his credit. "I like the variety of doing different things," he said. "I don't regret a bit of it. I'm glad, though, that my children aren't going into acting."

He had never heard of "Orphans" before accepting PRC's invitation. He saw a great deal of potential in the script, he said, even though he didn't particularly like it at first. "But I like working with Maureen (Heffernan). She's got a good eye," he said. Heffernan and Pritchett worked together several years ago at the George Street Playhouse in "Fool For Love."

After "Orphans," Pritchett would like to turn to movie work. "Movies

give you a touch of immortality," he said. "It has a permanence that the others (i.e. television, theater, etc.) don't have."

John Felch, a faculty member in the UNC Department of Dramatic Arts, will play the role of Treat in the play. He has been in many PRC productions, including "Cloud Nine," "Much Ado About Nothing," and "The Storm." Last year he was in "Waiting For Godot," "The Matchmaker," "A Doll's House," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Phillip will be played by Thom Garvey, a second year participant in the UNC-CH Professional Actors Training Program. Prior to coming to Chapel Hill, the New York native trained at Hampshire College in Massachusetts and at Herbert Berghoff Studio in New York.

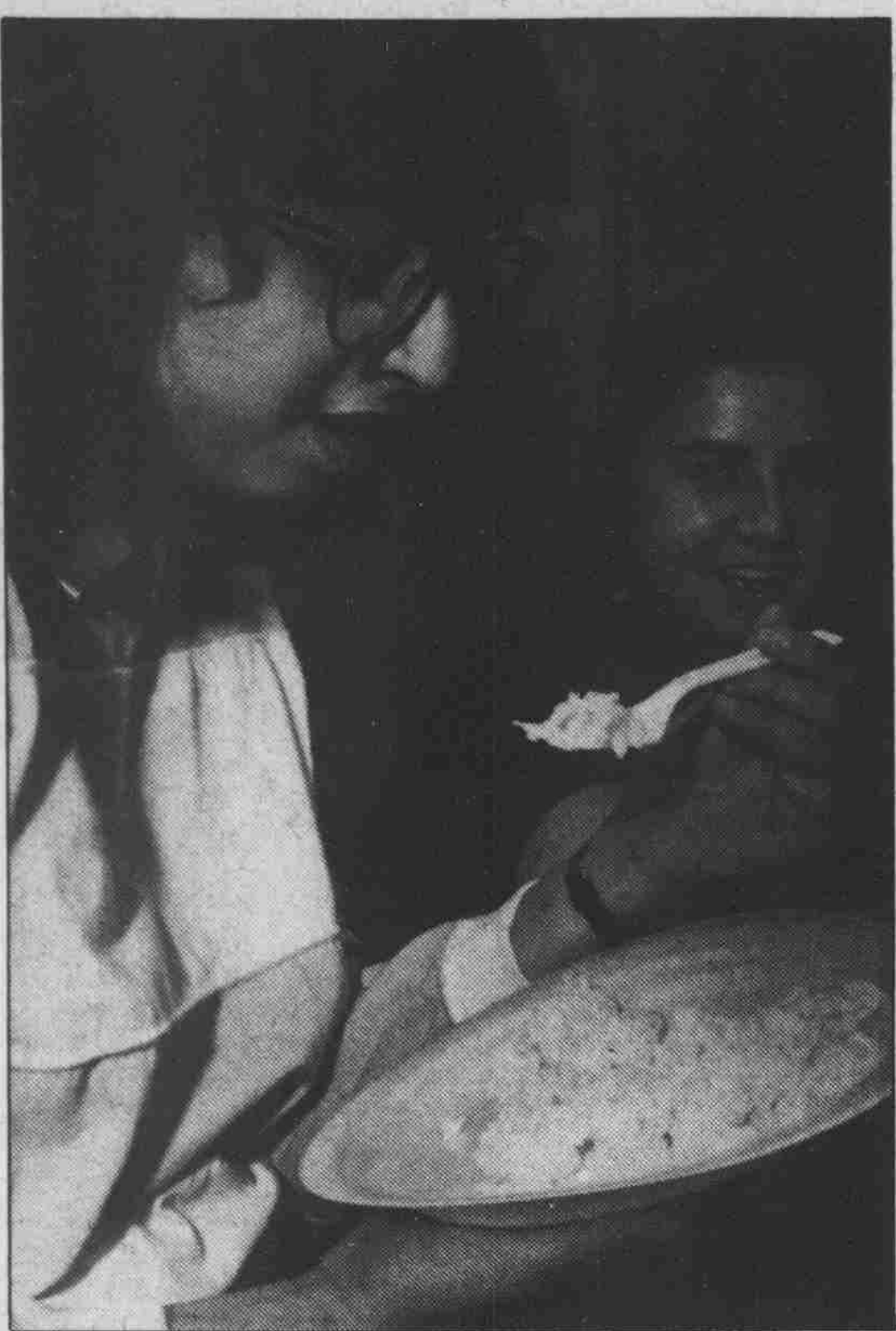
"Orphans" is a study of two brothers, Treat and Phillip, who live alone and are supported by petty thievery. Treat decides to kidnap a drunken stranger, Harold, and winds up with more than he expected. Heffernan said the play has far-reaching effects.

"It's really trying to show what a family is; what a home is," she said. "It also asks, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' and 'How do we find our own person in a hostile world?'"

Heffernan said she has drawn from her own Chicago background and experience with the George Street Playhouse's Children's Theatre in "Orphans." "I always wondered how kids in cities get to be the way they are," she said. "Just who are these human beings?"

The play is exciting, funny and moving, she added. "It shows how we are all orphans — emotionally."

"Orphans" will be previewed by PlayMakers Repertory Company, tomorrow at the Paul Green Theatre, with opening night on Saturday. Other performances will be Sunday matinees on Nov. 1, 8 and 15, with evening performances on Nov. 4-7 and Nov. 11-14. An audience discussion will follow the performance on Nov. 4. Matinees begin at 2 p.m. and evening shows begin at 8 p.m. Call 962-1122 for ticket information.



Third-world meal

Dalya Massachi (left) and Reena Schellenberg eat rice during the Campus Y's annual banquet in recognition of World Food Day.

DTH/Charlotte Cannon

Protest

Morman cited several instances of CIA atrocities.

He said Sen. Frank Church wrote an article stating that the CIA sent a syringe and a lethal biological substance to Zaire to be injected into a substance Patrice Lumumba, a popularly elected official, would digest.

After about 45 minutes, Dean of Students Frederic Schroeder asked the protesters to leave the area and allow interviews to continue.

McKinley replied, "There is a lot more at stake than us getting out of here."

"This is a symbolic protest," he said. "The CIA keeps a lot of people all over the world in chains."

Schroeder then ordered the demonstrators to leave. When the chained protesters still refused, University Police Chief Charles Mauer told the rest of the protesters and press to leave. He shut and blocked the door.

The protesters who were kept out of the room pounded on the door and tried unsuccessfully to open it, chanting, "The people united will never be defeated" and "Police repression at UNC."

While making his way through the crowd of students and press, Mauer shoved a camera back into the face of a TV-28 cameraman.

Several protesters complained about Mauer's behavior.

After about 15 minutes, the protesters, handcuffed to each other, were escorted out of Hanes Hall,

loaded into a van and taken to the Chapel Hill Police Department.

As they left, demonstrators chanted, "Hey hey, ho ho, CIA has got to go."

Griffler said the protest was symbolic. "Many countries are locked in the CIA chain," he said after police released him. "They cannot get up and walk away — that is why we could not."

Marcia Harris, director of University Career Planning and Placement Services, said, "I think it was unfortunate that students exercising their right to free speech interfered with other students' rights."

Morman said this is the start of a long campaign. The protesters plan to send University administrators requests to discontinue CIA recruiting on campus and documentation of CIA atrocities.

A meeting in the Student Union is scheduled for next Wednesday to inform students of CIA terrorist action.

Inaccessible voting sites for students is a concern that has arisen in the campaign.

Howes said students who want to vote are now split among two or three precincts, but a ward system would be more effective than an at-large voting system.

Andresen said the town is not large enough for a ward system, but recommended that the town investigate the possibility of establishing student precincts. Lineberger said he was not sure a central student precinct would be practical.

Howes said the council tries to avoid making student-related decisions while they are out of town.

"I think that being a student, this is your job to let the council know that this is something that you really want to participate in," Andresen said.

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Mayor

blocking traffic off of Finley Golf Course Road if the event is held again.

"It is true that on the council you have to be concerned not only with the people coming before you, but at the same time you have to consider everybody else out there," Andresen said.

The council decided to deny a noise permit for Burnout while students were on spring break, which angered students who were out of town during the meeting.

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