

# Lab Theatre's 'Woyzeck' prompts thought

How do you spell "artsy-fartsy"? W-O-Y-Z-E-C-K!

And for those of you who don't know, that's pronounced "VOYCHECK," not "woysek."

The Lab Theatre's latest production, "Antonin Artaud presents Georg Buchner's WOYZECK," is an incoherent mixture of pretense, esoterica and performance art. But in spite of its incoherence, the play makes an impact.

Imagine, if you will, a relatively serious tragedy from early 19th century Germany. You might as well read the plot, because you probably won't understand it by watching this production. That is, unless you are a brilliant drama major who has studied the play in your required dramatic literature class.

Woyzeck is a poor soldier who has been forced by an oh-so-evil society to subject himself to scientific experimentation in order to supplement his meager military wages. Specifically, he is only to eat peas. For months and months he only eats peas so that he can support his wife and child.

Here's the catch: Woyzeck's wife, Marie, is sleeping with his military superior. So Woyzeck slips slowly into insanity, finds out about his wife's affair and, one supposes, kills her.

If you think I gave something away, you're wrong. Director Quince Marcum has not chosen this play for its story line. It is a vehicle for his complicated thematic and artistic statements.

Marcum has developed a pretty clever idea. He's taken the play out of its linear time formation. Scene 4 comes first, scene 1 comes second, etc. Marcum is trying to make a statement about the nature of memory in relation to theater. Woyzeck, to paraphrase Kurt Vonnegut, has come unstuck in time. So time doesn't really matter in this

## Eric Rosen Theater

play, because memory isn't linear.

But a play without linear time makes for pretty confusing theater. Half the time, the audience is completely oblivious to the action of the play because everyone is too busy trying to figure out what's happening.

But that's not all. Marcum also has added another theme that isn't necessarily relevant to the script. The cast members lead a dual life. Sometimes they are the characters in Buchner's play. Sometimes they are themselves. There are even times in the play when they break the action and slip into "reality."

"The bitch of it is that this whole conversation is scripted," an ensemble member said in a "real-life" scene, proving that even "reality" is so much illusion in the theater.

The interesting part of this is that the actors are similar to the characters they portray. Tim Cole, who plays Woyzeck, is surprisingly like his character. He's even subjected himself to experimentation at North Carolina Memorial Hospital to make some money. So many parallels, so little time.

Marcum has created a play within a play. That is, not only do we watch the action of Buchner's script, but we also watch a great deal of an original script that Marcum created. Antonin Artaud is the fictional director, only he's on stage with the actors. The actors interact. The director gives a lecture about the meaning of the play. The actors talk about the meaning of the play. The audience wonders about the meaning

of the play.

The funny part about all this is that, as theater, it almost works. Theater succeeds when it has an effect. "Woyzeck" affects.

Performances overall are quite good. Tim Cole is convincing as Woyzeck, and his descent into madness is real and startling. His interactions with other cast members are consistent, as he jumps around in time at light speed.

Scenes in which Marla Morton (as Marie) croons to her infant are inspiring-mystical. Confrontations between her and Cole are frightening, smooth and dangerous. And romantic scenes between her and Scott Bowman, who plays the Drum Major, are touching, warm and somehow sinister.

Pamela Hartley does nicely with her role of Andres, complementing the tension between Woyzeck and Marie. Her voice is hauntingly beautiful, fitting into the production seamlessly.

Paul Goodson warms quickly to his double role of the Doctor and Artaud. Skillfully cast against type, Goodson competently handles a role for which he is not quite suited.

But the cast works best as an ensemble. The 12 actors command the tiny Lab and use the space. Cast movement is fluid and compelling. Physical direction is clever and, at times, excellent.

"Woyzeck"'s biggest flaw is that it tries to do too much. One is bombarded by too much meaning. At its worst, the production almost offensively alienates the audience, by saying: "Come on, I dare you to admit you don't understand." Theater as a weapon is not a pretty sight.

But overall, "Woyzeck" is worth seeing. Marcum has given us a great deal to think about, and his creative



DTH/Catherine Pinckert

Marla Morton, left, and Tim Cole perform a scene in 'Woyzeck'

efforts make an entire play apart from the script. But if you don't understand it, don't

feel alienated or unintellectual. Georg Buchner would have trouble fathoming the whole lot.

## Sports

### Men's soccer falls to UNCC in 2 OT's

By ERIC WAGNON

The UNC-Charlotte men's soccer team lost their coach, but UNC-Chapel Hill's team lost its regular-season finale Sunday at Finley Field.

Referee Tim Catapano apparently heard some not-so-kind words from the 49er bench with 21 seconds left in regulation and responded by giving a red card to UNCC head coach Frank Kohlenstein. Nonetheless, the 9-8-1 Tar Heels blew a valiant comeback and played some not-so-impressive soccer to lose, 4-2, in two overtimes.

Senior Bobby Ricks scored two first-half goals for the 11-4-2 49ers. After Ricks' second goal, UNC coach Elmar Bolowich yanked starting goalkeeper Watson Jennison. With back-up Herb Sherry out with a broken bone in his left hand, Bolowich inserted freshman Mike Capre, who was supposed to be red-shirted this season.

Capre shut down the 49er attack for the remainder of regulation play, allowing the Tar Heel offense to mount a second-half comeback. UNC leading-scorer Derek Missimo put the Tar Heels on the board with 18:30 left in the second half with a blast from the right side.

UNCC forward Gabe Garcia almost closed the door on the UNC comeback just three minutes after Missimo's goal. His shot on a breakaway hit the left post and deflected away.

The vocal contingent of UNCC fans

seemed ready to chalk up a 49er victory, until Tar Heel forward Adam Tinkham tied the game on a hard shot past goalkeeper Aidan Heaney with just 51 seconds left in regulation.

The Tar Heels managed only two shots in the ensuing overtimes, while the 49ers scored twice on seven shots. Shooting from a nearly impossible angle on the left wing, Anthony Richardson scored an unassisted goal 30 seconds into the second overtime to put UNCC up 3-2.

Later in the second overtime, John Cullen added UNCC's fourth goal with three and a half minutes left. With Cullen dribbling from the right wing and Capre overplaying the angle to the near post, Cullen ignored the wide opening on the far side of the net, yet still scored just inside of the near post.

"Whenever we've worked hard to come back like we did Wednesday (in a 4-3 overtime loss to UNC-Greensboro), or today when we scored in the last minute to tie it up, we immediately give it up again in overtime," Bolowich said.

UNC had its opportunities, but they were the proverbial too few and far between in the overtime periods. Six minutes after Richardson's go-ahead overtime goal, senior Marc Buffin almost tied the game on a shot that hit the post. Marco Ferruzzi was so close to the goal on the rebound that he was almost able to chest the ball into the goal, but the ball went just wide.

### Field Hockey

scored again minutes later, when her shot ricocheted off the post.

"It feels great," Hartzell said. "I wanted to score two, but one is better than nothing."

Lempers scored twice, once on beautiful stickwork and shot placement at the 59:52 mark and another on a penalty corner with eight seconds left, closing out the scoring.

Before Lempers' final goal, Mary-

land finally penetrated the stingy North Carolina defense. Maryland, which didn't get a bona fide scoring chance until early in the second half, put one in at the 62:12 mark.

Lisa Bunte, an all-tournament selection, scored on a penalty corner to keep UNC from notching its 12th shut-out of the year.

Maryland coach Missy Meharg had nothing but praise for the Tar Heels.

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"They're an outstanding team," Meharg said. "My kids seem to put them up on a pedestal. They pass better than any team in the nation. Once they get going, they're very tough to stop."

"Carolina is, as far as I'm concerned, the best team in the country."

UNC won a much sloppier contest Saturday over an inspired Duke squad. Lempers, Hershey and Staley scored for the Tar Heels.

### Soccer

even around for last year's tourney loss, had more fire in her eyes than most of the other players on the field. Less than three minutes after Lilly's second goal, she made it 4-2 on assists from Kalinoski and Higgins.

Hamm, later voted tournament MVP, garnered her second goal of the match and her third of the weekend on a header, with assists from Stacy Blazo and another from Higgins, her third of the game. Higgins was later voted ACC

player of the year.

In the end, UNC had taken care of all of those things they had left to learn about. They got their revenge. They survived their suspense. And they certainly weren't behind anymore.

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