

God put on trial for abandoning faithful in latest Lab Theatre show

By KITT BOCKLEY
Staff Writer

The Lab Theatre's latest production, "The Trial of God," by the famous German writer Elie Wiesel, is an exploration of faith. The theme centers upon the question of how people can believe in a God who allows so much suffering.

Director David Massachi, a sophomore RTVMP major, explained, however, that he is more interested in emphasizing the nature and causes of evil than in making a religious statement.

"I tried not to make it a religious play," he said, "but more a play about good and evil and man's relationship to them."

Set in 1649, "The Trial of God" takes place at an inn in the fictional East

European village of Shangorod on Purim Eve, an important Jewish holiday that celebrates life. Ironically, to innkeeper Berish, played by Greg Miller, and his daughter Hanna, played by Wendi Black, this holiday has come to mean only death and destruction.

One year before the play takes place, the town experienced a pogrom, in which every Jew in the village was murdered. Only Berish and Hanna, who was brutally beaten and raped, survived. After the death and suffering that has taken place in his life, Berish has concluded that God has abandoned his Chosen People. When three minstrels come to the inn and ask to put on a play in celebration of Purim, he instead suggests they stage a mock tribunal in which God is indicted.

Wiesel's inspiration for the play came from a real-life experience. Massachi said. As a survivor of the concentration camps of Nazi Germany, Wiesel actually witnessed a similar trial in which three rabbis accused God of being indifferent to His people. In the play, he asserts that evil primarily originates in people's belief of miracles.

"If you believe in miracles, you tend to allow the evil to go by and not fight it," Massachi said. "Part of a miracle is hoping that someone will come in and fight the bad for you. This kind of mentality is evil itself."

Katie Sherman, a junior biology major, plays Maria, a barmaid at the inn, who becomes a maternal figure to Hanna after her mother's death. Aside from the basic challenge of learning

such a large number of lines, Sherman said the character of Maria was difficult to play because of a fundamental contradiction in her personality.

"Maria has got a very hard exterior, but actually she cares a lot about the people she's chosen to be close to," Sherman said. "At a dramatic level, it was hard dealing with the way she has a tough self, but then transforms into a person who shows a lot of passion and feeling."

Allen Simpson, a senior drama major, plays Sam, a mysterious stranger. Just when it seems that no one will defend God in the mock trial, Sam shows up and acts the part of God's defense attorney.

"Sam seems to have something which sets him apart from normal people,

which allows him to be at peace with the world and take suffering in stride," Simpson said. "Part of the play is trying to figure out who or what Sam really is."

Simpson said a major difficulty he encountered in playing the role of Sam was understanding Sam's absolute faith in God. "Sam is supposed to be someone who is very confident with his spiritual beliefs," he said. "Most people go through some sort of questioning process, maybe not doubting faith, but at least really wondering what's out there."

Despite the fact that the people and events of the village of Shangorod are far removed from the UNC campus, the themes of "Trial of God" are universal and offer something to people of any time period.

"If you're tired of 'Dukes of Hazzard,'" Simpson said, "and you're not averse to a little soul searching, come to 'Trial of God' and be prepared to think."

"The Trial of God" will be performed at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Sunday and Monday and at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. The Lab Theatre is located in the basement of Graham Memorial. Admission is free.

Arts coordinator's Note: Auditions for next semester's Lab Theatre and DDA production "Little Victories," will be held from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. on Dec. 3. A two-minute Shakespearean monologue and a two-minute contemporary monologue should be prepared. A sign-up sheet is located in Graham Memorial, and all students are welcome.

'Twelfth Night' humorous, successful introduction to UNC for theater group

"Some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them," proclaims Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night." The first production of the new Theatre Arts Committee succeeds as an effective and funny adaptation of this timeless comedy.

The accomplishments of this committee are astounding, considering their only goals were to give non-majors an opportunity to act and to make the theater accessible to every student.

The lead characters work well together and obviously enjoy their roles. Duncan Boothby provides much of the play's slapstick humor as Malvolio, a prudish servant to the Countess Olivia, played by Isabel Barbuk. The antics begin when Malvolio is tricked by his fellow servants into believing Olivia is enamored of him.

Barbuk is excellent as Olivia who, decked out in 1920s garb, rejects the attentions of Duke Orsino and falls for a man who is really a woman in disguise. Olivia is the type of woman who knows what she wants and doesn't hesitate to go after it. Barbuk adds a seductive determination to Olivia that makes the

Mondy Lamb Theater

character enjoyable.

Also notable is freshman Julia Smith, who plays Viola, a woman who disguises herself as a man named Cesario. Smith successfully portrays her dual role of playing a woman playing a man.

The plot is the usual Shakespearean challenge. Duke Orsino is in love with the Countess Olivia. Viola, believed to have drowned, comes back disguised as a man, Cesario, in order to be a servant to her beloved Duke. The Duke sends Viola, as Cesario, to woo Olivia. Olivia falls in love with Cesario. Sebastian, Viola's brother, also mistakenly thought to be drowned, makes his appearance just in time to be seen by Olivia. Mistaken identities, mayhem and awkward situations ensue.

By taking Shakespeare out of the Elizabethan context and placing it in the '20s, a time-period people are familiar with, director Tessa Blake has made it easier to find depth and significance in

each character.

However, this young theater company still has some problems to work out. The Cabaret is unsuited for a production of this caliber. Like a nightclub, the Cabaret's tables lend themselves more to intimate conversation and treat the stage as secondary entertainment.

Acoustics are also bad in the Cabaret, and hearing the dialogue is crucial to understanding Shakespeare. The beauty and wit of his writing are often due to the subtlety of language and the puns and allusions found in the text.

Blake said the biggest directing challenge of the play was overcoming the bad acoustics of the Cabaret. This hilarious rendition of this classic comedy is, unfortunately, marred by bad acoustics. Although commendable as a comedy of errors, the biggest error of "Twelfth Night" is the location.

"Twelfth Night" will be performed at 8 p.m. on Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, and at 8 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Dec. 2, in the Cabaret, downstairs in the Student Union. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for the public. Tickets are available through the Union Box Office.

Ensemble helps ring in season with concert

By JEFF TRUSSELL
Staff Writer

With temperatures in the 70s and exams around the corner, it's easy to forget it's almost Christmas, but there's one sure way to banish these most unseasonable things — attend the Waverly Consort's performance of "The Christmas Story" in Memorial Hall tonight.

Since 1964, the Consort has performed the story of Christ's birth for audiences around the world. Basing its performance on 13th-century liturgical plays, the group uses medieval music and costumes to bring the legend to life in its original context. The Consort's use of this type of music has, over the years, sparked a revival of "early" music styles in North and South America.

The performance of "The Christmas Story" is a festival in itself. The production consists of eight singers and five instrumentalists, attired in lavish costumes. They re-enact the journey of the Magi, Gabriel's message, Herod's court and of course, the famed Nativity scene.

This ensemble was started by Michael and Kay Jaffee, two students at New York University. Interested in performing with medieval instruments such as the vielle, gemshorn and the citole, they assembled a group of

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fellows graduate students in musicology and named themselves after a street near NYU's campus — Waverly Place.

The group is now in its 26th year of public performance, and their "Christmas Story" is an annual event in some of the world's largest cities. Since 1980 the Consort has performed for New Yorkers at the Metropolitan Museum. Their first concert at the Museum was greeted with almost unanimous praise and the New York Times proclaimed it "a worthy addition to New York's holiday season."

Europeans and people of the Far East have also hosted the Consort. The group has played at major events such as the Hong Kong Festival, the Madeira Beach festival and the Casals.

In addition, a series of CBS specials have featured the ensemble and the group has also been included in several

Today Show Christmas presentations. The Waverlys have even been guests on the Dick Cavett Show.

Much of the group's music, including "The Christmas Story," has been produced under the CBS Masterworks label, a label which includes artists such as Vladimir Horowitz.

Other full productions the group has mounted include "Las Cantigas de Santa Maria" and "Le Roman de Fauvel," the latter a 14th-century satire of political and ecclesiastical institutions of the late Middle Ages.

The Waverly Consort's "The Christmas Story" will be performed today at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$8 for UNC students, \$14 for the general public and are available at the Carolina Union Box Office.

For the Record

The ticket price for Miracle Legion's concert at Cat's Cradle tonight was incorrectly quoted as \$12 in Thursday's Omnibus. The actual ticket price is \$5.

The Nov. 29 Daily Tar Heel article

"Policy to prevent homosexual discrimination," should have stated that the University will house homosexual students together and that a few homosexual students live in Odum Village. The DTH regrets the errors.

TWELFTH NIGHT

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November 29 - December 2

- Thurs.-Sun. • 8:00 pm
- Sun. Matinee • 2:00 pm

Union Cabaret

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•• For more information call 962-1449

FRIDAY
Noon: CGLA will have a Lesbian Lunch in 218 Union.
5 p.m.: The Senior Class and Alpha Phi Alpha invite everyone interested in visiting the C.A. Dillon School for juvenile delinquents, to meet in the Morrison traffic circle.
8 p.m.: Delta Phi Alpha will hold its annual Weihnachtsfeier bash in Toy Lounge (Dey Hall). All members and members of the German Department are cordially invited. Call 933-8837 for more info.

ITEMS OF INTEREST
CAA announces that ticket distribution for the Jan. 9 Maryland game will be Sunday, Dec. 2 from 6-9 p.m.
Campus Y Crafts Fest Committee announces that Crafts Fest will be today through Sunday, Dec. 2 in the Great Hall. It features the work of over 40 professional artists and craftspeople, for exhibit and sale, to benefit the Campus Y. A 12' x 12' section of the AIDS Quilt, co-sponsored by The Names Project, will be displayed for National AIDS Awareness Day. For more info, call 962-2333.
University Housing announces that RA applica-

Campus Calendar
The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Saturday and Sunday events are printed in Friday's calendar and must be submitted on the Wednesday before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, 104 Union. Items of Interest lists ongoing events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

tions for 1991-92 positions are available now through Dec. 19 in Carr Building, area offices, BCC, CGLA office and the International Center. Due Dec. 19 at 4:30 p.m.
The BSM will present a Umoja Series, "Hold on, Let Go, Educate and Celebrate," on Thursday, Dec. 6 in the North Dining Hall of Lenoir. Deadline for the \$3 fee is Tuesday, Dec. 4 and is payable at the BSM meetings.
CAA/Carolina Fever wants to know if all you Carolina basketball fans want to meet the players? Come to the "Tar Heel Tipoff" on Wednesday, Dec.

5 at 7:30 p.m. in 100 Hamilton. Support the team on the eve of the Big East/ACC Tournament.
The Black Pre-Professional Health Society and Alpha Epsilon Delta invite anyone interested in participating in a gross anatomy lab tour at the medical school to contact Nelson Lea at 933-3136 or Tifani Davis at 933-7316.
SAFE Escort needs you! Paid positions are available. Sign up now at the Union desk for interviews to be conducted all day on Dec. 6! Completed application not required for interview. Women encouraged to join!
The 1991 Yackety Yack staff reminds you to put on your best face! Portraits will be taken by Thornton Studios through Dec. 13 in 213 Union. Call 1-800-

873-7591 for an appointment.
UCPPS announces a resume drop for employers, recurring Jan. 22-Feb. 1 to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 4.
Tar Heel Recycling Project announces that the mobile drop-off site for today is on Stadium Drive by the dumpsters between Teague and Parker dorms.
The UNC Go Club is organizing Go competitions for Dec. 11. Games will start at 7:30 p.m. in 220 Union. Competition is open to players of all levels and it is free. Everyone who is interested in playing or watching the game is kindly invited.
UNITAS applications for 1991-92 are now available at the Union desk, BCC and 5th floor Carmichael. Deadline is coming up soon so don't delay! Find out what being culturally and racially aware is all about.
PlayMakers Repertory Company will present "The Nutcracker: A Play," Nov. 28-Dec. 22 at the Paul Green Theatre.
The Carolina Union Activities Board Theatre Arts Committee presents William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night in the Cabaret through Dec. 2. The play is set in the 1920s. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for the public. Call 962-1157 for more info.
The Carolina Union Gallery Committee is pleased to announce "Recent Works," a sculpture exhibit by Winston-Salem artist Gregory Podgorny, in the Union gallery through Jan. 11.

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