

French Aristocracy brought to life in "The Rehearsal"

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STAFF WRITER

University Theatre presents Jean Anouilh's "The Rehearsal," a multi-faceted play, directed by renowned UNCW professor, Terry Rogers.

The play takes place in 1950s era France in the Chateau de Ferbroques. The Count, played by senior Matt Lutz, has married the Countess, played by senior Diana Stewart, for her substantial wealth. Similarly, the Countess has married the Count in order to gain a respectable title. This marriage of convenience invites both the Count and Countess to have extramarital affairs to appease their passionate appetites. The Count is having an affair with Hortensia, played by senior Daisy Talley, while the Countess is having an affair with Villebosse, played by junior Lloyd Galyon.

Much to the disappointment of the Count and Countess, they inherit twelve orphans from the Count's late Aunt. Concerned only with public opinion, the Count and Countess grudgingly decide to host a grand charity ball to "welcome" the orphanage to society. A large part

of the charity ball's entertainment includes the performance of an 18th century period play entitled, "The Double Inconstancy" by Marivaux. Ironically, the play in which they choose to perform parallels the characters' own lives. Lucile, played by senior Janna Murray, is the goddaughter of the Countess' lawyer, played by senior Garrett Droege. She is hired to look after the children, but soon, much to the disapproving and jealous eye of the Countess, the Count lusts after her.

Other brilliant characters that will grace the stage include Hero, played by junior Greg Rapoza. Hero is an old friend of the Count who cannot seem to drink away his past. Matt Maragno, a junior, plays the humorous Footman. This complex play is full of wonderful characters and surprise twists that are sure to captivate the audience.

Famed British translators, Pamela Hansford Johnson and Kitty Black interpreted this brilliant French play into English. The recurring themes in "The Rehearsal" and many of Anouilh's plays are the loss of innocence and the relationship between reality and fantasy. The lustful pursuit of pleasure often

leads to hollow, empty relationships among the characters.

The actors had the difficult job in portraying Anouilh's complex characters full of motives that are not portrayed through words, but subtext and actions. Because the characters in the play are superficial, their true personality is only exposed at key moments during the show.

"The language in which the play is written is difficult to interpret and portray," Stewart said. "At times, it is difficult to understand Anouilh's true intentions."

The cast needed to be dressed in authentic 18th century costumes for their "rehearsal" of "The Double Inconstancy."

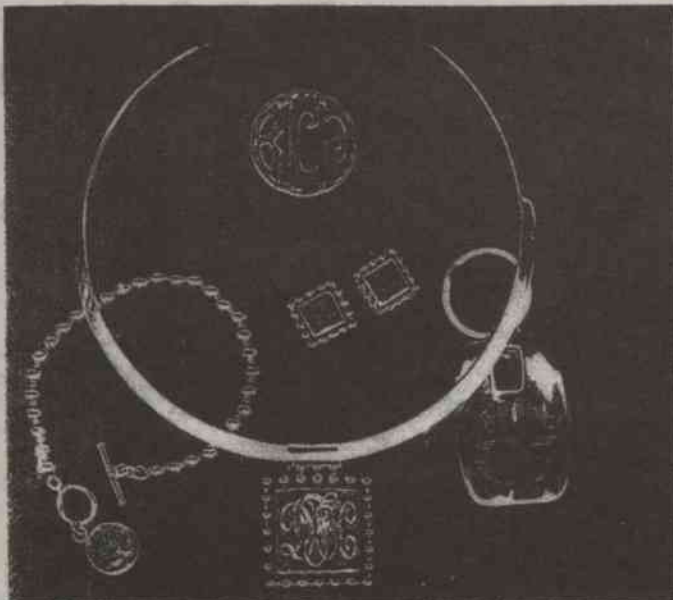
"It was interesting doing this show because I was researching two time periods, the 1950s and the 1720s," Alex Sergeant, a UNCW professor and the costume designer, said. Sergeant fur-

ther explained that for the 1950s, she researched fashion, but for the 1720s, she researched the art. Watteau, an 18th century artist, was the most influential for both costume and set design.

Head Set Designer, Tom Macy, carefully captured the ambience of a chateau in France in the 1950s. The set consists of a beautiful parlor room decorated with many of the character's family portraits.

"The Rehearsal" is sure to be a fascinating play full of memorable performances from the talented cast. Last night was opening night and the performances will continue through this weekend. Showtime is 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. for the Sunday matinee. Tickets are free for UNCW students with I.D. and \$5 for the general public. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. To make reservations call the Kenan Auditorium Box Office at 962-3500.

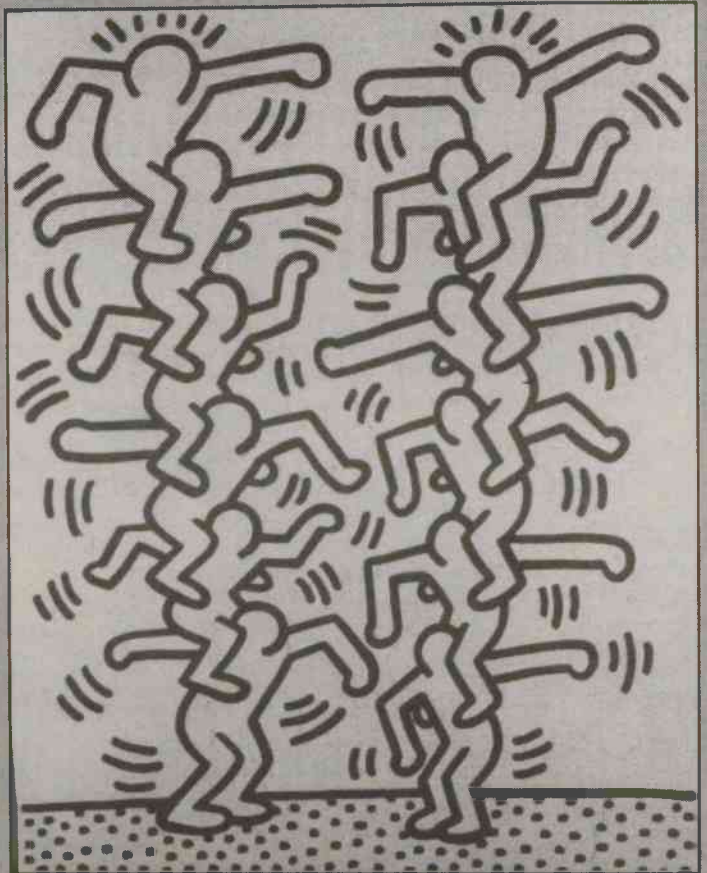
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Courtesy of St. John's Museum of Art

St. John's Museum opens new exhibit on human figure

Replacing Virginia Wright-Frierson's paintings and the exhibit on Native American art at St. John's Museum of Art will be a study of the human figure in art. Keith Haring's "Untitled," shown above, will be on display as part of this exhibit. "The Human Factor" officially opens on Friday with a walk-through tour. A preview reception for the exhibit will be held tonight at 7 p.m. The Human Factor: Figuration in American Art, 1950-1995 will be on display in the Hughes Gallery through April 22.