

Play offers bold new twists on old themes

By ALAN P. FELTON

The Elephant Man, which is the second theatrical performance of the season for the North Carolina Wesleyan Theatre Department, will be performed in the Coltrane Theatre at 8 p.m. on Feb. 17-19 and 24-26.

The production features the introduction of many new theater majors to the Wesleyan audience as well as the artistic and design expertise of community member Jim Singleton and Assistant Professor of Art, Everett Adelman.

The Elephant Man, directed by Assistant Professor of Theatre Vaughn Schutz, is a bold and unique theatrical undertaking that focuses on several timeless themes that are especially pertinent in today's society.

The Elephant Man is the story of John Merrick, a hideously deformed man who is discovered in an English workhouse and placed with a traveling freak show. Merrick is rescued from this plight by a young doctor named Frederick Treves who houses



VAUGHN SCHUTZ

Merrick in a hospital and introduces him to English society with its endless rules and customs.

The Elephant Man is a well

known play, however Schutz has placed many new twists in the Wesleyan production. The entire play is performed by a group of circus performers, causing each of the actors to take on two separate roles for the show.

Schutz said the circus backdrop was a natural setting for the play because Merrick was perceived to be a circus freak. Another reason for the circus setting is that it fits in well with the overall Brechtian style of the production, which focuses on a large, presentational feel for the show.

Most audience members will associate *The Elephant Man* with the popular Hollywood movie, but the play is completely different from the film version.

The most notable difference is that the actor portraying Merrick is not made to look like the real Elephant Man. Schutz commented that his production continues with the tradition of the stage production by not using special effects on Merrick in order to avoid distracting the audience from the relationship between other characters and the Elephant Man. However, the director did say that certain costume pieces would be added occasionally to the body of Merrick in keeping with the presentational style of Brecht.

Schutz chose *The Elephant Man* because he was intrigued by the script and because the Theatre Department strives to balance

its seasons between musicals, comedies, and drama. In addition to fitting in well with the general themes of the Contemporary Arts Festival, the play explores the reasons people are judged by their outer appearances.

Schutz said he has become very interested in the so-called outcasts of society, especially after working with a homeless man last summer, and he noted *The Elephant Man* is a reflection of society's view of anyone who is different.

Schutz hoped that the audience would focus on the contrast between Merrick's outer appearance and his true inner being and then translate the lessons learned into their everyday lives.

Wesleyan does share to help environment

Universities and colleges waste millions of gallons of water and fuel every year while producing thousands of tons of toxic waste and carbon dioxide, environmental protection groups charge. In fact, the average student generates about 640 pounds of garbage a year.

Yet, there are many things that campuses could be doing to change their environmental policies in order to reduce waste and to encourage recycling efforts.

That's the point of the Campus Earth Summit, scheduled Feb. 18-20, at Yale University in New Haven, Conn. Students, Faculty, and administrators from more than 125 campuses, including 17 foreign universities, will meet to craft a blueprint for environmental reform.

"From solid waste to radioactive waste, campus policies reflect society's poor environmental practices," said Jeff Courey, chairman of the 1994 Campus Earth Summit and the Yale Student Environmental Coalition, host of the conference. "Universities must lead us into the 21st century by becoming responsible

consumers and educators."

Here at Wesleyan, Chris Brandt, Student Government Vice President, hopes to initiate a campus wide recycling program soon. Currently the dorms participate in a can recycling program. Brandt would like to see the all white paper, and can recycling program be spread campus wide.

Brandt expressed hope that with the administration's help the program would be a major success. "It depends on what the administration can do to help," Brandt said.

Brandt would like to see containers for white paper, cans, and possibly bottles in the dorms, the administration building, and the student union. Brandt also suggested that if everyone would use the voice-mail system instead of writing memos the school could cut a lot of waste.

There are recycling bins located at Golden East Crossing Mall on the parking lot behind Sears. These bins are for newspapers and other recyclable material. Also at Tarrytown Mall there is a can recycling truck stationed in the parking lot.

CAB CORNER...

February Overview...

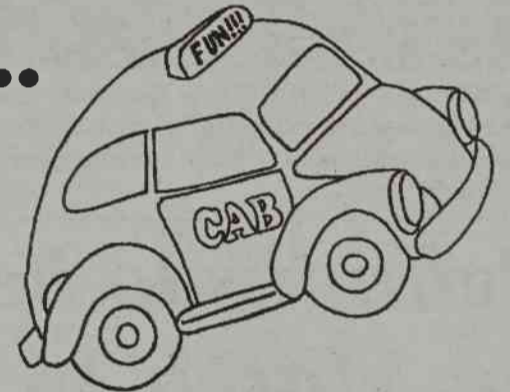
Remember, February is not over yet! There is still some fun stuff to do!

Friday, Feb. 18: BINGO! Join us in Doc's for lots of fun and unique types of Bingo. See you at 9 p.m. in Doc's.

Saturday, Feb. 19: Saturday Night Cinema presents "Poetic Justice." The movie will begin at 9:30 p.m. and will be shown in Doc's!

Friday, Feb. 25: Fantastic Friday! Tonight we will be at the Bowling Center for bowling. Leagues play until 10 p.m., but we can get a great discount after 10 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 26: Saturday Night Cinema presents "Leap Of Faith." The movie will begin at 9:30 p.m. in Doc's.



Billy Joel? Elton John?

What would you pay to see them in concert?

The house lights dim, the introduction is said, the first chords are played as the audience erupts into applause for they recognize the show's opening number, "Candle in the Wind." Not a sound emits from the crowd as the feeling grows that Elton John is actually in the room.

CAB is bringing performer **Carl Rosen** to campus on Wednesday, March 16. Make plans now to join us in the SAC for this nostalgic evening of favorites from Elton John and Billy Joel!