

What's Playing

by Amity Brown

Area playhouses have a full venue for the 1991-92 season. NCSU's Center Stage, at Stewart Theatre, is featuring Nunsense, I Ain't Yo Uncle, As You Like It, and The Three Sisters, while Thompson Theatre is performing The Odd Couple, Joe Turner's Come and Gone, Arms and the Man, and The Boyfriend.

Raleigh's Theatre in the Park, 107 Pullen Road, is finishing its run of Breaking the Code and will follow with Fences, The Merchant of Venice, and Briarpatch.

As for Raleigh Little Theatre, the City Stage Series will include: Gemini, The Boys Next Door, and Jesus Christ Superstar. All performances are at the Gaddy-Godwin Theatre, at Raleigh Little Theatre, 301 Pogue Street.

Raleigh Little Theatre's Main Stage is completing its performance of Big River, and upcoming performances are: Da, Wait Until Dark, Biloxi Blues, and Me and My Girl. Main Stage performances are also at Raleigh Little Theatre.

Playmakers Repertory Company, which performs at the Paul Green Theatre, Chapel Hill, is currently running Stephen Jeffries' adaptation of Charles Dickens' Hard Times, with A Shayna Maidel, The Nutcracker: A Play, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Eleemosynary, and Twelfth Night to follow.

For ticket information, call 962-PLAY for Playmakers, 821-4579 for Raleigh Little Theatre, 831-6058 for Theatre in the Park, 515-2405 for Thompson Theatre, and 515-3104 for Center Stage.

Film Review

To Regard or Disregard??

Feeling down in the dumps? Are you a little depressed? Do you need a quick fix of heartwarming happiness? Then slap down five dollars and sit back to Regarding Henry, a sickeningly touching film that traces the path of a yuppy New York lawyer who must start his life and relationships over after being shot in the head.

A love child of director Mike Nichols, Regarding Henry is a feel-good film of mediocre quality. Nichols, who also directed The Graduate and, more recently, Working Girl, creates an easy-going picture that boasts only an adequate plot and characters. There are no daring intrigue, no spicy sex scenes, no suspense — just a formulated sequence of bad man + tragic event = good man.

Convincingly played by actor Harrison Ford, Henry is an insincere, materialistic, and self-centered man. The opening scene shows him arguing an emotional case; then the scene flashes to a telephone booth in the court lobby where Henry is threatening someone about a table that "looks like a damned turtle." His callousness extends to his family, where he browbeats his daughter for spilling juice on his "baby" — gray wall to wall carpeting. Henry's bastardly image is shattered, however, with the bullet that

pierces his skull in the grocery store robbery. The film focuses on the long period of rehabilitation that follows. During this period, Henry rediscovers the pains and joys of life with help from his therapist, Bradley; his wife, Sarah; and his daughter, Rachael.

Dragging from scene to scene, the plot is predictable and unrealistic. For example, the viewer knows Henry's recovery is inevitable when, thirty minutes into the film, the man is already walking and talking again. After all, this film does last two hours, and its main focus is to trace Henry's rehabilitation.

Aside from the slowness of the action, the plot also suffers from a lack of realism. The assumption that a tragic accident combined with little savings and no income equals financial strain is glossed over. Although Sarah takes a part time job, there are few modifications in their high dollar lifestyles; they still retain their daytime housekeeper, drink expensive Heineken beer, and send their daughter to a costly prep school.

Another example of the film's disregard for reality concerns the focus on Henry's physical disability. His arm suffers no impairment from the shot in the shoulder, and *continued on page six*

Meredith Performs Proudly Presents...

Journey Proud

by Tom Cope

In Studio Theatre of Jones Hall

September 26-28 at 8 p.m. & 29 at 3 p.m.

October 3-4 at 8 p.m. & 5 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Admission:

Individual \$6

Students & Senior Citizens \$4

An award will be given to the club with the most members present

