

# The Lion's Prey Now in Owen

The premiere of "The Lion's Prey" at Mars Hill now through February 21 combines the dramatic abilities of actors, writer, and director from four area colleges.

Produced by the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre (SART), the play was written by Dr. E. G. Bierhaus, chairman of the Department of English at Warren Wilson College. Dr. Bierhaus finished the play this summer while attending a playwright conference sponsored by SART for new N. C. dramatists.


Richard Croom is the director of the Asheville-Buncombe Technical College's engineering program and has appeared in SART productions, Mars Hill College plays, and is currently performing in an Asheville Civic Theatre production, which means rehearsals for "The Lion's Prey" are held at odd hours. He plays the role of Jason Montag, an older man, a widower, and the person who provides a final insight into the sharing of belief and knowledge in the play.

From Mars Hill College, SART has chosen Dr. Earl Leininger to play the lead of Sir Robert Greaves, prominent citizen and close friend of the aging lady. Dr. Leininger, who is professor of religion and philosophy at the college, has proven to be one of SART's most popular actors. He has held the lead roles in such major productions as last summer's "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Fantastiks," and "The Sound of Music." The director is also from Mars Hill and C. Robert Jones is well known in the region for his directing ability as well as for his own plays. He is also associated professor of theatre arts at the college.

Eagerly anticipated is Eleanor Leininger's performance as Althea Greaves, the female lead in the play. This will be her first role since moving to Mars Hill and UNC-Asheville's faculty two years ago. Prior to her arrival in the area, she acted and taught in New York City. At UNC-Asheville, she has been acting, voice and speech, and interpretation. She has produced the plays "The Hostage," Harris's "The Riches," and "The Arkansas Traveler" at the college.

In addition to drawing from the talent on the four area campuses, the remaining actors are no strangers to area drama fans. Deborah Hull from Asheville is remembered for her role as Golde in last summer's "Fiddler on the Roof," and Phillip Shore is known for his roles in Burnsville's Little Theatre, where he is currently involved in a production. They will play the roles of Dr. & Mrs. John Bulley in "Lion's Prey." The cast was founded out with Mark Moore, who will portray Danny Lyons, a brash rock

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# The Hilltop

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The Hilltop  
MARS HILL COLLEGE  
Mars Hill, N.C. 28754

## Chinese Magic Circus Coming February 25

Magic and circus are terms of entertainment with which most of us are familiar. These two words take on deeper meaning, however, when describing the performance of the Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan which will be performing Thursday, February 25, in Moore Auditorium, beginning at 8 p.m.

The precision and grace of the troupe only hints at the years of training and discipline the members have undergone. The art they perform has been formed by centuries of tradition of Chinese acrobats. Most of the acts in the performance were created and have been performed by the Chinese for 2,000 years.

In fact most of the performers of the company are family trained. When they begin formal training at the age of four or five, they have already observed their parents leaping and sailing through the air and most take it for granted that they will, in time, do the same. Three schools of arts are located in Taipei dealing with drama, classical Chinese opera, and acrobatics and other physical skills. The children spend four hours each day going through their paces. By the time they have reached the age they will perform, they have achieved the harmony of mind and body that is such an important concept in Chinese culture.

The dancers also train for years. When the show is re-grouped for a major tour, over 2,000 women answer the advertisement for dancers. Forty are initially chosen to work with the choreographer; and finally six are chosen for the tour. It is usually two years before they return home. Each of the costumes worn

by the girls in the show is hand made and elaborately embroidered. Each takes an individual seamstress two weeks to complete and they are all based on traditional designs dating back hundreds of years.

The two-hour show the company will perform at Mars Hill includes sensation.

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## Piedmont Chamber Orchestra To Perform March 2

The Piedmont Chamber Orchestra, a hand-picked ensemble widely known throughout the eastern U.S., will perform at Mars Hill Tuesday, March 2, at 8 p.m. in Moore Auditorium.

The orchestra was begun in 1968 at the North Carolina School of the Arts using funds from a Rockefeller Foundation grant. The 25-member orchestra brought together smaller professional ensembles and molded them into a performing group of 18 strings augmented by solo winds, brass and percussion as the programs require. Now a resident professional affiliate of the School of the Arts, the group has widely served the Southeast with an exceptionally high quality of music and soloists. They participated in the inaugural festivities of the JFK Center in Washington, and in 1974-75, extended their activities into New York City and Detroit with great success.

The program at Mars Hill will include selections by G. F. Handel, Telemann, Boris Blacher, William Walton, and Joseph Haydn. The featured soloist for the performance at the college will be Fredrich Bergstone on french horn. The orchestra will be conducted by Dr. George Trautwein.

The Piedmont Chamber Orchestra is sponsored by Mars Hill's Visiting Artists and Lecturers Committee. Tickets will be available at the door and additional information is available from Robert Kramer, chairman of the committee, telephone 114.



THE CHINESE MAGIC CIRCUS COMING TO MOORE FEBRUARY 25