

# "Bigger Than Us" Student One-Acts Are More Than Just Entertainment

By Michael S. Roten  
Hilltop Editor

What people get to see on a stage is just the tip of the iceberg. Just ask advanced directing students Mollie Freeman, James McGraw and Wendy Heater; they will certainly tell you a play is much more.

Owen Theatre will be host to student-directed One-Act plays tonight and tomorrow night (May 4,5) at 8 p.m. The exciting shows fall under an umbrella theme, "Bigger Than Us."

"Tradition being the way it has always been done," is where *The Framing of Agnes D.* falls under the umbrella, explained director Wendy Heater. The first of the three is a serio-comedy about Agnes D. going to heaven. The 60 year-old housewife dies, and finds out that the angels in heaven get to decide what's important in Agnes life. But, Agnes decides to fight the "holy" system.

The production has been a fight as well. Heater said she never realized how much there was to be done. She has even had to take pictures for a slide show in the movie. "One thing I definitely learned is that you can't take a picture during the day in a room in front of windows," she said.

"This show has been stressful. If I had not had other classes, I could have enjoyed it a lot more," Heater said. "I thrive on the stress of the theatre, but combined with the stress of

classes, it was a little much."

Heater is a senior Theatre Arts Education major from Charlotte, N.C. Well-known on campus as a big Mickey Mouse fan, she remembered her first acting was done in second grade. "We were doing the Christmas play, and I vaguely remember bringing Santa a bag of candy canes," she said. "Also, Mom took me to see a lot of plays before I was old enough to go to school. I remember being very scared of the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*. Mom kept telling me it was alright." Since coming to Mars Hill, Heater has performed in several shows, including *The Dining Room*.

The next show for the evening will be James McGraw's production of *The Maker of Dreams*. The happily-ever-after story is about love and its power to make us look in the stars for perfection.

"One of the quotes in the play is something like, 'While you're looking at stars, you may be treading on a glow-worm,'" McGraw said.

McGraw is also a veteran of acting, well-known as the fiendish Cassius Carstairs in the recent, *A Fate Worse Than Death*. From a start as a troll jumping around a cauldron in a hometown library production many years ago, McGraw is preparing to graduate with a Theatre Arts degree. "I didn't even know if I was going to college. I came from a tough

background." He said he realized the best way to get a good job was to stay in school. Now he dreams of directing film.

The best way to describe the present work of directing is, "it's never the same twice," said McGraw. Working with two unexperienced actors is also a hard thing to do.

"It's just really hard to communicate with people you know, maybe worse than with people you don't know," McGraw said.

Someone who never has problems communicating is the final student director, Mollie Freeman. "Joe's Friendly" is the tale of a good ole boy fighting progress, as big business tries to take over the last "service" station.

"I changed the time to fit today, with all the construction and demolition that is going on with the road construction," explained Freeman. To get her cast into their roles, she took them to see different gas stations, "hang around," and then ended atop Texaco hill to see the destruction.

Freeman will be certified K-12 in Theatre Arts Education when she graduates. The

eternal student of Mars Hill said she enjoys writing poetry (which has been published in *The Cadenza*), making funny faces, and defending the tiger. "They are really misunderstood," she said. "They really are man-eaters. They only need a hug from one brave man. Will one brave man hug a tiger?"

Like the others, Mollie's start was in childhood. Mollie's mom inspired Mollie in her acting. "She always made us perform seventies music and compete in talent shows. One day she told me, 'You're so neat, you can make yourself cry.' Right then, I knew I wanted to be a director and actor."

The one acts will be performed at 8 p.m. on Wed. and Thurs. nights in Owen Theatre. Admission is free and there is no reservation fee.

Advanced Directing is taught by Robert Jones. Students learn different directing styles, including Shakespearean and pre-modern. The one-acts are the culmination of all the studies and full-blown productions of each of the three students.

## SART and MHC Present *Lion In Winter*

The Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre and the Mars Hill College Department of Theatre Arts presented James Goldman's comedy, *The Lion In Winter*, April 27 through May 1 in Owen Theatre.

SART's managing director, John Oerling played King Henry II of England, while MHC professor Liz Michel played his queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine, who was imprisoned for her nasty habit of leading civil wars against Henry. Richard I, the Lionheart (of the Robin Hood tales), was played by SART veteran Mark Moore, last seen as the sleazy funeral home director in *Raney*.

The story took place Christmas Eve in the year 1183. Though King Henry had released his queen from her prison for the holiday, their truce remained uncertain. The two were battling over the heir to the throne, either Richard I or Johnny. Geoffrey, the middle son of the two, hoped to play both sides against one another to become heir.

Southern Appalachian



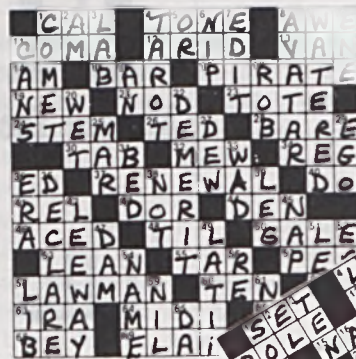
Repertory Theatre is a non-profit, professional theatre in Mars Hill, N.C., whose mission is to bring quality theatre to the rural region; to present plays that represent the cultural

heritage of the region; and to promote original works. SART is supported in part by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

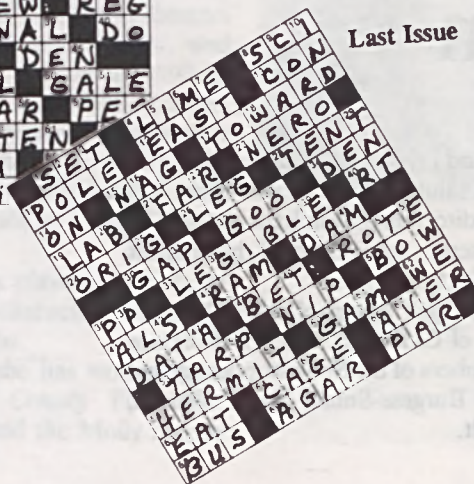
### Crossword Companion

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- ACROSS: 1. Western state (abbr.), 4. Musical note, 8. Wonder, 11. Unconscious, 12. Dry, 13. Recreational vehicle, 14. Morning (Latin, abbr.), 15. Ban, 17. Sea robber, 19. Novel, 21. Doze, 23. Carry, 24. Stalk, 26. Spread grass to dry, 28. Nude, 30. Flap, 32. Cat sound



- This Issue Hidden: 51D - Legal, 52D - Eros, 57A - Per, 62A - Go, 66A - Alas, 70A - Gal



Last Issue

- 34. Regular (abbr.), 35. Sullivan, 37. Restore, 40. Complete, 41. Relative (abbr.), 43. Beetle, 44. Lion's home, 46. Get an A on a paper, 48. Sesame plant, 50. High wind, 53. Thin, 55. Black street substance, 57. Each, 58. Sheriff, 60. Number, 62. Move, 63. A Gershwin, 64. Short skirt (slang), 66. Woe is me!, 68. Turkish title, 69. Dash, 70. Girl (slang)

DOWN

- 1. Star with a tail, 2. Americium symbol, 3. Scientist's room, 4. Playing cards, 5. Either, 6. Sharp bite, 7. Blue pencil, 8. Archetype, 9. Moisturized, 10. Direction (abbr.), 11. Tins, 16. Article, 18. Steal, 20. Moist, 22. Take away points, 25. Damage, 27. Morning moisture, 29. Self, 31. Cot, 33. Compressed ball, 35. Age, 36. Say, 38. Negative, 39. Appendage, 42. Give room, 45. Doze, 47. Beaver construction, 49. Old language, 51. Within the law, 52. God of love (Gr.), 54. Appellation, 56. Concerning, 58. Liberty (abbr.), 59. None, 61. Annoy, 65. Prosecutor (abbr.), 7. Southern state (abbr.)

## The O Page

### Letter

Editor, On April 22, 1994, the given the privilege to voted only because our we would always have their sacrifice, but I have the democratic system relevant whether the system sequential as electing something as picayune as student government.

The vote in question on Mars Hill College SC changes in the SGA Cons

pared to the other per proposal involved paying per year conting participation at SGA se proposal stood next to the ptance of the proposa

ple who had the gall proposal to change their v ment for acceptance ing it facile to refute h him to stand there and

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democracy. Perhaps I ha much faith in the demo be the very core of creence. Such a blata tude has ominous imp dictatorialships are born

## Student Government Election

The following is a list of government Association

- Mark Thompson - Executive, Beth Thisse - Executive, Mike Wachtendorf - Executive, Jeff Whitt - Executive, Norman Bove - Chief

- Michael Julian - senior, Mark Onishi - senior, Kerry Blair - senior, Vesna Stajkovic - senior

- Jason Wunsch - junior, Daphne Parker - junior, Roddy Alt - junior