

Beast Steals Show From Beauty in PlayMakers' Holiday Performance

PlayMakers Repertory Company has remounted its original stage adaptation of "Beauty and the Beast" by North Carolina playwright Tom Huey for the Christmas season. Presented first in 1993 by UNC alumnus Michael Wilson, PlayMakers' version of "Beast" follows the classic fairy tale which is currently thrilling audiences of all ages.

Though most people think of the Oscar-nominated animated film by Disney, PlayMakers' "Beauty and the Beast" utilizes dramatic license in an attempt to step away from the 'modernized' Disney version.

Directed by Christopher R. Baker, "Beast" closely if not exactly resembles last year's production. Most of the cast has returned to deliver their critically acclaimed performances of years past. It was hard to distinguish any differences in direction between Wilson and Baker. The actors seemed to have their characters down so well as to no longer need the benefits of direction.

The staging and costumes of "Beast" were by far the highlights of the production.

Utilizing a white stage and a white backdropped curtain, the simplicity of the set makes the outstanding costumes seem to glow around the actors inside of them. Costume designer Caryn Neman has created outstanding and outlandish costumes for Regene (Dede Corvinius) and Chloetilde (Michael Hunter) who are the sisters of Belle (Susanna Rinehart).

However her masterpiece lies in the costume worn by Kenneth P. Strong (the Beast). The Beast's costume towers above

all other characters and resembles nothing of the hairy Yeti imagined by most children. Operated by two additional operators, the costume of the Beast is the greatest thing within the play. Strong conveys all of the intensity of a human face through the mask utilizing his powerful voice.

Rinehart as Belle offers what seems to be a variation of Judy Garland's performance in "The Wizard of Oz." This mirroring of such an innocent character serves Rinehart well, helping to push her sad character into the light.

However the most memorable performances in the play are the humorous sisters of Belle and Droog (Matt Fleming). Hunter's Chloetilde is hilarious as he moves around in ridiculous drag queen attire. Physical and slapstick comedy is what grabs the audience and tickles their funny bones.

"Beast" also employs interesting 'slapstick' sound effects provided by an offstage chorus member which mirrors how plays were performed in the past.

What has been distracting in the play for the past few years is the inclusion of subtitles between scenes.

These subtitles could easily be removed from the play without sacrificing any of the play's content.

Ideal for families and children, PlayMakers' production of "Beauty and the Beast" is worth the price to see the variation on the classic fairy tale.

However, children may lose interest once the bedazzling costumes and set are not backed by an animated and singing tea pot and candelabra.

Performances continue through Dec. 21. Curtain times are 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, Sundays at 2 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 16. For reservations, tickets and additional information, call 919/962-PLAY.



Kim Clay as Madame Vanity (left) and Matt Fleming as Droog (far right) look on as Susanna Rinehart as Belle tickles the 'bedbugs' in a magical scene from PlayMakers Repertory Company's production of "Beauty and the Beast."

Campus Calendar

- TUESDAY**
 3:15 p.m. A CAREER CLINIC will be held in Nash Hall, call 962-2175
 3:20 p.m. LESBIAN EMPOWERMENT GROUP will meet in Nash Hall. Call 962-2175
 3:30 p.m. CUR-IN AFRICAN & AFAM STUDIES will show the Delta Force video "The Drilling Fields" in 08 Gardner Hall.
 4:15 p.m. STUDENT ACTION WITH FARMWORKERS will hold a video showing / informational meeting in Union 209.
 6:30 p.m. ORDER OF THE BELL TOWER will hold its last general body meeting of the semester in Union 211.
 7 p.m. CALLING ALL CANDIDATES! There will be an optional candidate information meeting in Union 212. See or call Annie Stuart in Suite C with questions at 962-5201.
 UNIVERSITY CAREER SERVICES will sponsor a presentation by Teach for America in 210

- Hanes Hall.
 7:15 p.m. GREEN GAMES will meet in the Student Union basement.
 8 p.m. PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY will perform "Beauty and the Beast" through Dec. 17 at Paul Green Theater.
 UNC YOUNG DEMOCRATS will meet in Union 209 to watch "The War Room." Refreshments will be provided.

For the Record

Monday's article, "Memorial Service Held for Philosophy Graduate Student," should have identified Robert Michels as a graduate of the University of Southern California. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

Town Officials Ponder Development, UNC Expansion

Chapel Hill leaders said they hoped to work with the University to plan growth.

BY NATALIE NEIMAN
 STAFF WRITER

University and town officials said that it was too early to tell which of the five options for the development of the Mason Farm and Horace Williams properties was most feasible.

The presentation of options was made Thursday night by Johnson, Johnson and Roy, a consulting firm hired by the University to assess long-term development of University property.

"I'm not favoring any of them over any other," said Pat Evans, a member of the Chapel Hill Town Council. "These were not put out there as option A, B or C. It will probably be a combination."

Transportation factors and how the town would accommodate growth were major concerns for residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, said Joe Capowski, a member of

the Chapel Hill Town Council.

"We have to see how bus systems and other mass transit would fit into this," he said. "If we (Chapel Hill) have to add new services, the University will have to kick in some money. The University does not pay property tax. We want to make sure if non-educational buildings are there (on the tracts), those people pay taxes or money in lieu of the taxes."

The Michigan-based consulting firm presented three options for the Horace Williams tract and two for the Mason Farm property. One plan for the Horace Williams tract called for a traditional campus arrangement and would develop the central portion of the land.

In the second plan, most development would occur near Airport Road. The community might find this plan the least attractive because it would increase traffic on the road, said Thomas Clegg, chairman of both the faculty advisory committee and of the physics and astronomy department.

Under the third plan, the area near the rail line that carries coal to the power plant would be the most highly developed.

This plan includes the possibility of us-

ing the rail line for running buses to the area and other parts of Chapel Hill, Clegg said. However, development of the area and the town would have to reach a significant level before such a route would be feasible, he said.

"You can't have a rail line with one stop," he said. "You have to have a higher-density level in town also."

JJR's presentation helped to alleviate some concerns residents of Chapel Hill and Carrboro had about the amount of development on the tracts, said Wayne Jones, vice chancellor for business and finance.

"The density levels being proposed are less than the density on core campus," he

said. "The density (proposed) for Horace Williams is roughly half of core campus."

Deciding how to develop the land is, and will continue to be, a cooperative effort between the towns and UNC, Jones said. "I don't foresee strong disagreements between the University and the towns," he said. "That's not to say there won't be any disagreements."

UNC has done a good job of incorporating the towns' concerns into development decisions, Evans said. "I think the cooperation that has occurred... has been very open," she said. "I think it will lead to something we can all agree on. The planning panel has worked hard. They have served the community."

DWI CHARGES

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Gold said that University Police and Chapel Hill police had had mutual aid agreements in place for years and that Allen looked at tax maps that indicated the arrest was not made adjacent to property owned or leased by the University.

Chapel Hill police Capt. Tony Oakley, who runs the town's checkpoint program, said he thought that the arrest was made within the jurisdiction of University Police and that extra permission was not needed. "We'll just have to make sure the property is right up on the edge of the pave-

ment," he said. "The simplest solution is to use (checkpoint) locations that are adjacent (to the University)."

University Police are useful in staffing the checkpoints on roads with heavy traffic, Oakley said.

"Where a checkpoint is at night, we have to have enough officers to keep traffic flowing," he said. "The numbers make a difference as to where you can have your checkpoints."

Oakley said he accepted the dismissals as part of the judicial process.

"It's up to the courts to decide whether to proceed with this or not," he said. "If they find something wrong, they'll tell us and we'll fix it."

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