

'Auschwitz' turns WW II horror on its head

BY LILY THAYER
ASSISTANT ARTS & DIVERSIONS EDITOR

"Auschwitz" is a comedy. OK, so it's a black comedy, but the thought of any humor being associated with the name of the most notorious Nazi concentration camp is slightly unnerving. And that, according to Betsy Gordon, director of the Department of Dramatic Arts Studio One production, is the kind of response "Auschwitz" should evoke. "This is a comedy with a definite pur-

pose," said Gordon, a senior from Kansas City, Mo., who is making her directorial debut after campus and professional acting and choreographing experience. The Studio One production of the play, which was written by British playwright Peter Barnes, is only the second U.S. production of the play. Gordon said the action centered around three German functionaries in an office on Christmas Eve in 1942. "These people are paper-pushers; they're just carrying out orders, but they're not SS people," Gordon said. The ordinary existence of the three office workers — played by Ted Shaffner, Jordana Davis and Wes Baker — is turned upside-down

when their work station is invaded by a Nazi commandant. "Events occur (after the Nazi officer's arrival) that turn it into not the normal day at the office," Gordon said. Mike Oakley portrays the crazed Nazi. The power of the production lies in its ability to force the audience to identify with the perpetrators of a crime against humanity — in this case, the office workers who like the rest of the world stand by while genocide occurs around them, Gordon said. "(This play) really shows the simplicity of evil; it's not some great metaphysical force," Gordon said. "Normal people would just rather not have the

power (to decide what is the right thing to do). They say, 'I have a job, and I am a victim, too. This is not a good time for me to ask a bunch of questions.'" "People willfully forget — something that seems very harmless can be part of an atrocity." The play, which is part of the roster of Human Rights Week events, opens tonight at 8 p.m. in the Playmakers Theatre. Performances continue Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday and Monday at 8 p.m. Tickets are available for \$3 at the door, or are free for PlayMakers Repertory Company subscribers and student pass-holders, as well as DDA privileged card-holders.

'Landscape' to decorate Lab! despite production setbacks

BY MELISSA MILIOS
ARTS & DIVERSIONS EDITOR

Sometimes theater, just like life, doesn't go according to plan. Saturday, when Lab! Theatre opens John Guare's "Landscape of the Body," the cast will have been in rehearsal with director Claire Campbell for only one week. Granted, the cast had been rehearsing with the play's previous director, Tanya Meyer, for about four weeks prior to the change. But due to an administrative mix-up, Meyer was forced to step down last Friday when Lab! producers realized that she was not an officially registered student.

Since Lab! is by definition a student-acted, student-directed company, the cast invited Campbell, one of the Lab!'s three student producers, to step in as director. As campus theater aficionados will recall, Campbell closed the Department of Dramatic Arts Studio One's "The Hyacinth Macaw" on Monday evening. But Campbell has made the hectic transition smoothly, according to the cast. "Claire has accepted the responsibility with grace," said sophomore James Amler, who plays 14-year-old Bert in "Landscape."

"I have the utmost respect for her work and a great confidence in her ability, her talent as a director. I was especially excited about the focus she's brought to the project." Campbell has spent the past week familiarizing herself with the script and helping the actors brush up on their characterizations. She said "Landscape" is a play about searching for a sense of family; all the characters are looking for a place where they can be respected and loved. The play is about a demure woman named Betty who comes to New York

with her son, Bert, to try and persuade her wild sister, Rosalie, to come home to Bangor, Maine. When Rosalie dies not long after her sister arrives, Betty slowly takes over her sister's sorted life, and, in doing so, she spends less and less time with Bert. "It's not a purely realistic play (because) the tragic elements in the play can not be taken at face value," Campbell said. She said Rosalie, played by senior Lori Evans, was a key figure in the abstract structure of "Landscape."

"The play's action unfolds as a tangle of flashbacks narrated by Rosalie," Campbell said. "Rosalie directs the action of the play. She tells us what we are going to see." Junior Amy Heidt, who plays Betty, said her character is very complex as a result of these flashbacks. "Betty goes through a very drastic change throughout the play, but it's not a linear change," she said. "We get to see her at different points through the flashbacks."

"She keeps talking about how she's waiting for her life to begin," Heidt said. "What she doesn't realize is that she's right in the middle of it." Similarly, Bert is a character who is deeply affected by the action of the play. "Bert is trying to do the best with the situation he was dealt," Amler said. "He's only 14, so he doesn't have much control over his life, but he's placed in a situation where he has to take control."

"He's living a sort of despair, as I think most of the characters in the play are. But like anyone in that situation, he has hope, and he clings to that hope. It's what keeps him alive." "Landscape of the Body" opens at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Lab! Theater, located in the basement of Graham Memorial. Other performances will be at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday and Monday, and at 5 p.m. Tuesday. Admission is free.

Get 'Creative': submit to 1st DTH literary magazine

STAFF REPORT

Just because The Daily Tar Heel is in the newspaper business doesn't mean it can't branch out. The DTH will be publishing its first-ever literary magazine in December. The publication, "Creative Urges," will go out on newsstands Dec. 6. "Creative Urges" will feature the short fiction, poetry and artwork of UNC students. "It's an opportunity to serve our readership in a new way," DTH Editor Jeanne Fugate said. "The Daily Tar Heel strongly sup-

ports this community, and any way that we can encourage greater community interest and participation in the paper, the better." The DTH will accept submissions until 5 p.m. Nov. 27. Submissions must abide by the following rules: 1. Each entry must fall under one of three categories: poetry, short fiction or photography/illustration. 2. Poetry should be no more than 25 lines. Short fiction should be no more than 2,500 words. 3. Entries might be edited before pub-

lication, but the author will be notified before any changes are made. 4. Entrants must be registered students of the University. 5. The entry cannot have been previously published. 6. The entry should be accompanied with a cover sheet including the entrant's name, address, local phone number and year in school. 7. The contest is open to everyone except for those on the judging committee. The judging committee will consist of the DTH editor, the DTH student adver-

tising manager, a local writer and representatives from local bookshops. Prizes will be given to the top winners in each category. Winners will be presented in a reading to be sponsored by the Bull's Head Bookshop. The DTH has never entered the literary realm before. "This is a trial run," Fugate said. "But we still hope to generate lots of interest. We feel it's a very good service to print young writers' work and to get it out into the community. It's good for the writers and it's good for the community, in terms of the intellectual climate and all."

Coalition selects recipient of new human rights award

■ Gail Phares of Raleigh is a former nun who works with Central Americans.

"(Gail Phares) got the idea that an American presence in troubled areas would prevent bloodshed."

BY ANNE CORBETT
STAFF WRITER

JOE STRALEY
President of local CIAF task force

The saying "The world is watching" is particularly meaningful for Raleigh resident Gail Phares. Phares will receive the first International Human Rights Award, which will be given annually by the International Human Rights Coalition of North Carolina. The coalition formed this year as a loose association of 10 groups in the Triangle concerned with human rights. The group's main purpose is to identify a person who deserves the award. "The award was started to honor the wonderful work people have been doing for human rights in this area," said Lynn Barber, co-chairwoman of the N.C. Committee for the Celebration of Human Rights. "It is an opportunity for a gathering of the many people who are concerned for human rights in this area." Phares, a former nun who worked in El Salvador during the early 1980s, returned to the United States after it became too dangerous to stay in El Salvador. "In 1984 she was standing vigil near the border between Nicaragua and Honduras, and she noticed that the Contras had stopped shelling," said Joe Straley, a former professor of physics at UNC and

president of the local chapter of the Carolina Interfaith Task Force for Central America, an organization founded by Phares. "She got the idea that an American presence in troubled areas would prevent bloodshed," he said. To implement her ideas, Phares co-founded Witness for Peace, a human-rights watchdog organization. Under her direction, hundreds of U.S. citizens have gone to Central America to act as observers. "Witness for Peace identifies areas that are important to human rights and puts out notice for people to go and observe," said Lynn Barber, co-chairwoman of the Celebration of Human Rights. Thus far, Phares has not renounced her role in working with human rights in Central America, Straley said. "Gail is still leading tours to Central America," Straley said. "Right now she is trying to get 40 people together to go to Guatemala to accompany refugees who are returning to their homes after 15 years in exile. "She renounced her vows as a member of the Catholic Church, but she has not given up one iota on her commitment to peace and justice."

INTELLECTUAL

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as possible, and I think we would all like to have active roles for ourselves," he said. "People are providing advice and examples from their own experience that they think would lead to more of that." Fink said he agreed, despite the small numbers of responses. "I think it's been modest but thoughtful exchange," he said. The inside the classroom subcommittee's portion of the page asks

internet surfers what they would do if they were the University's "Education Czar" for a day. Suggestions for that subcommittee have run the gamut from making classes smaller to completely redefining the evaluation of students' work. The freshman year experience committee's portion of the page has received a great deal of feedback, as well. Most contributors seemed in favor of such a program to better introduce new students to life at UNC.

Chapel Hill's past preserved through various landmarks

BY ERICA HINTON
STAFF WRITER

Chapel Hill's history is preserved in many houses along Franklin and Rosemary streets. Although the McDade House, the only historic home left in the central business district, is in danger of demolition, there are still many other homes that capture the essence and tell the story of another century. The McDade House along with the Horace Williams House, located at 610 E. Rosemary St., are the only historic homes open to the public. The Horace Williams House serves as a home to the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, and the McDade House is home to the Downtown Commission Welcome Center. "The other houses are all private residences," said Robert Humphreys, executive director of the Downtown Commission. The Williams House was built in the 1840s and is furnished in period antiques and has a small art gallery. Named after a UNC philosophy professor, the house

contains parqued floors and an octagonal shaped room added by a UNC chemistry professor before being acquired by Williams. The building currently serves as the Chapel Hill Preservation Society Headquarters and as a community cultural center. Another noted site, the Widow Puckett House, located at 501 E. Franklin St., is the oldest residence on Franklin Street. Built in 1799, the house has a history of occupancy by university executives. At the Horace Williams House, interested persons may pick up the brochure entitled, "A walk down Franklin Street," a self-guided walk by ten of the area's historic homes. "It takes us back to an earlier time when the community and the University were first starting to grow," Humphreys said. These homes are only a few of the town's historic sites, which Humphreys said number so many that it is "impossible to say how many there are without narrowing down the area." Although there are other sites that preserve the town's history, the situation

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ROBERT HUMPHREYS
Downtown Commission Director

with the McDade House has still "caught a lot of grief," Humphreys said. The McDade House, built in 1855, is located on Franklin Street across from Kinko's. Now the house has been modernized as an office. The house is in danger of being torn down because University Baptist Church, located next to the house at 100 S. Columbia St., owns the property and wants to build a Sunday School center on the land itself. "We want to build more Sunday School space," said Frank LaMaster, minister of education. "We have been trying to find somewhere to move the house and have even

offered to give it away," he said. Although Humphreys said it was important to preserve the historic sites, he understood the other side of the issue. "The houses are part of the character of the community — part of our roots," Humphreys said. "But any property owner has the right to utilize their own property." Mary Arthur Stoudemire, resident historian and active member of the Chapel Hill Preservation Society, said she thought the situation with the McDade House was "very sad" because it and the other historic houses added to the community. "They are gracious homes," Stoudemire said. "The restorations have increased the value of housing in that area of town." University Baptist Church holds a demolition permit that expires on July 1, 1997, and the McDade House must be moved before that date or face destruction. Stoudemire said some of those concerned with preserving the house want to move it to the parking lot across the street from its present location.

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