

# 'Hay Fever' Treats Audience to a Dose of Laughter

By MATT MANSFIELD  
Staff Writer

A few actors and actresses put on humorous performances, but otherwise, Playmakers' production of "Hay Fever" is nothing to sneeze at.

Eric Woodall directed the play, written by Noel Coward in 1925, as a comedy of bad manners.

The four members of the Bliss family, each hosting a potential liaison for the

weekend, swap their guests around like swingers, showing how unconventional and superficial the family appears to society at large.

Ray Dooley leads the cast with impeccable comedic ability. When his character, Richard Greatham, encour-

**THEATER REVIEW**

Playmakers  
"Hay Fever"



ters a dirty plate on top of a stack of clean plates used for a breakfast buffet, he furtively puts the dirty plate on the bottom and looks at the new, clean plate as if impressed by the shine of the china. This joke drew roars from the crowd.

Delphi Harrington, who plays the ex-actress and mother Judith Bliss, humorously pulls off a melodramatic primadonna, fishing for compliments and overreacting to every problem.

Other performers, however, struggle

through British accents and seem unnatural. Simon Bliss (Denis Riva) has a whiny accent and personality that grates on the nerves. Though the personality is intentional, it goes overboard.

And the sense of timing of Sorrel Bliss (Beth Hylton) is off, making the audience miss a few of the comedic moments. Hurried lines prohibit the audience from appreciating the jokes.

"Hay Fever's" set and costumes portray how different the family is from the

rest of society. The set couples refined Victorian furniture and a curved staircase with a tacky mural and gaudy, giant books standing as columns in front of the library. It beautifully reveals how stylish and eccentric the Bliss family appears to the rest of society.

Woodall and costume designer Bill Clarke show an effective contrast between the Bliss' costumes and the guests' costumes. The guests, representing society, are dressed in contemporary

clothing, while the Blisses don tacky clothes clashing from different eras. The boy Simon wears red socks with his tuxedo, and his father wears a suit with a tie straight out of the Mark Twain era.

Though Dooley and Harrington lead with comedic talent, other actors cannot equal their performances, leaving room for improvement in "Hay Fever."

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## Graduate Students Display Art

By MATT MANSFIELD  
Staff Writer

The annual exhibit "New Currents in Contemporary Art" is the visual culmination of two years of hard work by students pursuing master's degrees in fine art. The exhibit, which opened Sunday at the Ackland Art Museum, features the work of those in the two-year program.

Mathias Sias, one of the artists whose works are on display, said considering the small size of the graduate program, he was surprised at the exhibit's all-encompassing tastes. "I'm proud of it," he said. "It's a diverse range of interests."

In the foyer, Susan D'Amato's charcoal drawings of different navels draw viewers into the exhibit.

"I was looking for a symbol for something to synthesize my ideas of the universe on a microscopic and macroscopic level," D'Amato said.

Some of her drawings, taken from photographs, feature navels that remind the viewer of birth. Others, such as

"Descent," portray the navel as some vast cosmic black hole from which nothing can escape except light.

"I'd like them to be contemplative," she said, explaining that it took weeks to pile layers of charcoal on each drawing.

In the painting realm, Sias' five canvases coalesce to form a giant monochromatic statement, gobbled in paint to emphasize texture. "I attempt to create paintings that are 'weighty' objects, emphasizing the use of paint as a tangible material," Sias' mission statement reads. "They're not preconceived. They arrive at a certain quality."

The displays simultaneously entertain and philosophically intrigue viewers. A viewer might reminisce about the '80s with the exhibit depicting a typical teenager's bedroom from 1984. Posters of Duran Duran and Boy George cover the wall, and a mirror and brush sit atop a desk intended for studying.

This room emphasizes an important time in pop-culture, with the dawning of the androgenous look.

Laena Wilder photographed four

racially divergent sororities to convey how people with similarities find identity together.

"I think it's interesting how we gravitate to people like us, especially those who look like us," Wilder said.

She showed how similar the women looked by splitting their images in half and combining them with another person in the sorority. Astoundingly, a concocted image of two women appears to be one woman, portraying the similarities between individuals.

The chance to display art before getting a master's degree lets these students step into the art world before graduation. Upon receiving their degrees, some students, like Sias, will head to places like New York as soon as possible, while others plan to take a break this summer in Chapel Hill or in their hometowns.

"I'm from San Francisco, so I'll probably go back," Wilder said. "I'll rest and catch up on my darkroom work."

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## Mich. Gunman Kills 2, Wounds 1

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. — A tenant at a senior-citizen apartment house opened fire with a rifle Tuesday after he was summoned to a meeting because of neighbors' complaints about his vulgar language, authorities said. Two women were killed and a third woman was critically wounded.

The man was taken into custody about 3:20 p.m. when police stormed his room, said police Lt. Donald Gentner. The man was not injured but was on narcotics and taken to the hospital for observation, he said. The suspect's name was not released, and no immediate charges were filed.

Police had spent several hours

searching the 14-story building for the gunman after the noon shooting. Other tenants were told to stay in their apartments during the search of the high-rise, and youngsters on the playground of a nearby elementary school were hurried inside and kept there until parents arrived to pick them up.

One of the victims was Marilyn Higgins, a former city council member and a longtime Lincoln Park Housing Commission member, Fire Chief Ernie Moon said. The identity of the other woman killed, a resident of the building, was not released.

Thomas Baize, president of the Lincoln Park Housing Commission, said

Higgins was at the building as she was every week to go to the grocery store for some residents.

Apartment officials had summoned the man to a meeting after other residents complained of inappropriate language, said Phyllis McLendon, deputy director of the Housing Commission in the suburb 10 miles south of Detroit.

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**THE Daily Crossword**

By Diane C. Baldwin

**ACROSS**

- 1 Not at home
- 5 Soap units
- 9 Birthing pain
- 14 Talk wildly
- 15 Blue-pencil
- 16 Marry in haste
- 17 Concept
- 18 Couch
- 19 Hooked with a horn
- 20 Blabs personal sordid details
- 23 Ocean motion
- 24 Ship's diary
- 25 Gangster's gun
- 28 Nuclear treaty
- 31 Switchback curve
- 34 Sailor's shout
- 36 Edible tuber
- 37 Type of sax
- 38 Disassociate from
- 42 Paper-and-string toy
- 43 Vanity
- 44 Dunce
- 45 Crafty
- 46 Tycoon
- 49 Bridge authority Culbertson
- 50 Funky music genre
- 51 Mickey and Minnie
- 53 Gives up bad habits

**DOWN**

- 1 "O don fatale," e.g.
- 2 Desert gully
- 3 State with con-
- 4 Leavening agent
- 5 Next to
- 6 Workshops
- 7 Schism
- 8 The 4 Seasons hit of 1964
- 9 Multitude
- 10 Over the length of
- 11 Use a drill
- 12 Candid
- 13 Crimson and scarlet
- 21 Same again
- 22 Andes beast
- 25 Stares stupidly
- 26 Effective use
- 27 Delectable
- 29 Iron Mike of

**boxing**

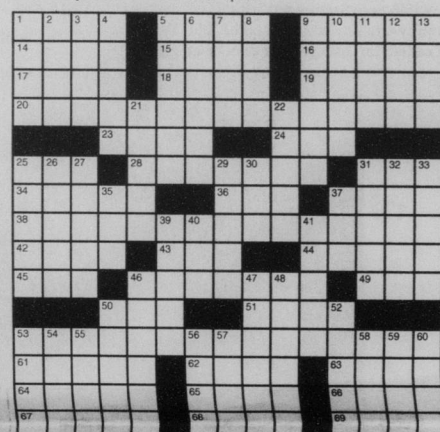
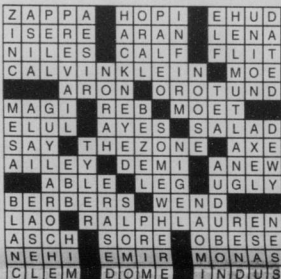
- 30 Scrooge exclamation
- 31 Borden bovine
- 32 Bar seat
- 33 Easy mark
- 35 "Loves You" hit of 1964
- 37 Tack on
- 39 Certain tides
- 40 Nest item
- 41 Female relative
- 46 Presbyterian

**parsonages**

- 47 Of easy virtue
- 48 Like wind chimes
- 50 Proportion
- 52 English assignment
- 53 Applaud
- 54 Folk tales
- 55 Immature news
- 56 Take apart

**57 Discomfort**

- 58 Verdi heroine
- 59 Work gang
- 60 Sawbucks



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