

Bad, Bad, Bad Boys. Thomas Guiry and Harvey Keitel team up to play military men on a daring mission to capture a top-secret Nazi decoding device from a German submarine.

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The arts of the father shall be visited upon the son. Three artists prove this theory by following their parents' footsteps to a successful career in their artistic field.

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Doesn't That Contain Marinara Sauce? Local jazz quartet "The Foolish Things" features a viola di gamba. It might sound like a pasta dish, but it's actually an instrument similar to a cello.

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DIVERSTIONS

The Daily Tar Heel

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A Decade of Song and Dance

Pauper Players celebrates its 10th Anniversary



Pauper Players Celebrates 10 Years of Musical Shows

By JOANNA PEARSON
Staff Writer

In 1989, UNC didn't have rhythm, and it didn't have music – in fact, UNC didn't have musical theater at all.

That is, until Angela Coin, Tristan Bishop, Ben Hanson and Wade Dansby 3, united by a common love of musical theater, decided UNC needed an undergraduate musical theater performance group.

Tossing around names for the group, someone suggested "Coin Company" as a play on Coin's name. Realizing the irony of this name – as actors they'd likely have very little money – they thought they'd play off their poverty instead, and Pauper Players was born.

Pauper Players is the only group on campus that performs musical theater exclusively. It is also unique because those involved are not exclusively drama majors.

"The biggest joy is seeing students who are not drama or music majors who just love to sing and perform," said Dansby.

Pauper Players Administrator Amy Smith agreed that the group has a unique bond.

"Something that makes us special is that once you are involved, you can be involved as long as you want. It's sort of like a big family."

Besides offering a fun, family-like environment for people interested in production and performance, Pauper Players has provided UNC with 10 years of excellent performances.

As they get ready to crown their 10th anniversary with a performance of "Cabaret" this Friday, Dansby recounted memorable performances of the past.

"Les Miserables' in 1990 was amazing. All these students were attempting this incredibly ambitious project, and we gave all the proceeds to the AIDS Foundation," Dansby said.

"Because it was a charity we got special permission to perform it. It was an amazing, amaz-

ing show."

From their first show, which was "Grease," Pauper Players have performed an incredible variety of plays. It was Pauper Players' 1993 performance of "West Side Story" that led to the founding of another campus performing group, Company Carolina.

"The director of ("West Side Story") decided Pauper Players was 'too fun' so he started Company Carolina on a professional theater model," Dansby said. "In 1989 there was no musical theater, and by 1993 there were two. Now (Lab! Theatre) is doing some musical theater. It's pretty amazing."

Dansby not only credits Pauper Players with improving the campus receptiveness to musical theater, but he also credits Pauper Players for improving performance opportunities in general for students.

"Since Pauper Players, the Drama Department has changed over the past 10 years, and the face of undergraduate opportunity has changed," Dansby said. "Pauper Players can take credit for all of that."

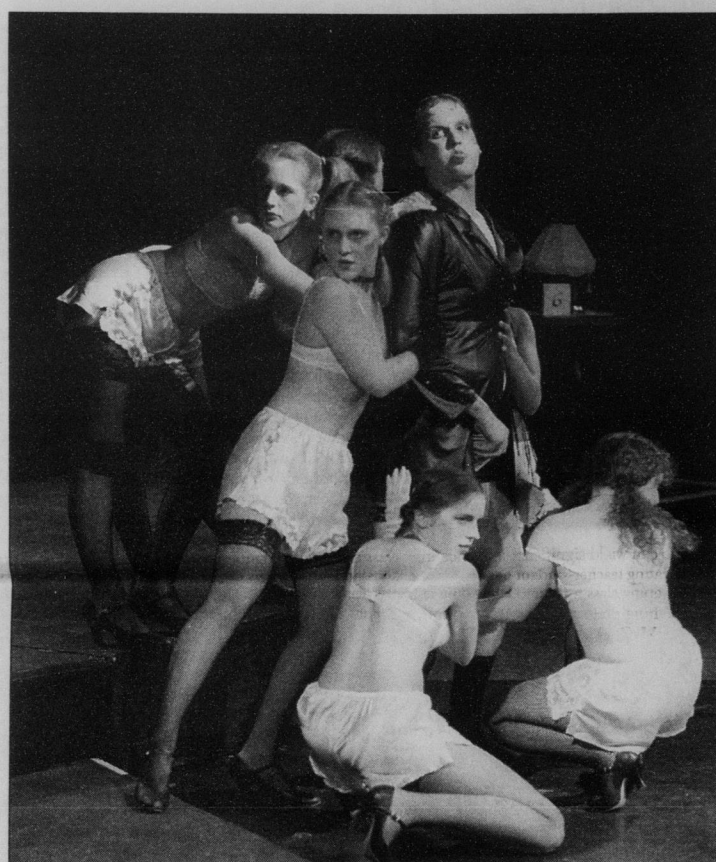
Today, according to Pauper Players historian Karen Master, Pauper Players' performance selections respond to professional musical theater trends.

"Right now there is a lot of interest in the current Broadway scene," Master said. "There is a big Bob Fosse influence, so we are really mirroring here what's going on in Broadway."

As Pauper Players moves on into its second decade, the group will still have to face some challenges. Perhaps the major challenge is that of finding a permanent performance space.

"No matter how good the show, we lose money every time we perform in the Cabaret. Over the past few years, Old Playmakers Theatre has not been available to us, and it's difficult to run a group without a definite performance space," Dansby said.

Master agreed, "In the Cabaret, there are cer-



"Cabaret," a show that features risqué costumes, marks Pauper Players' 10th anniversary and its 22nd performance.

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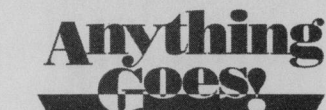
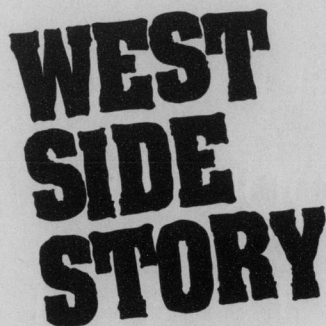
tain limits to staging as well."

Still, Pauper Players has no lack of enthusiasm, and if all goes well, they plan to be around for many more years.

Smith summed up her vision of Pauper Players' goals for the future.

"We want to continue putting on what we hope are good shows and for the public to continue to enjoy them."

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GREASE



Skimpy Costumes Lighten Mood of Persecution in 'Cabaret'

By CARMEN WOODRUFF
Staff Writer

This weekend, Pauper Players fills the stage with song and dance for the 22nd time in 10 years. But this time around, fewer clothes are involved.

In their rendition of "Cabaret," the actors pose provocatively to relay a deeper theme. Under the heavy voices, music and dance, the major issues of World War II whisper.

The show takes place in Berlin, Germany, in the 1930s, where Fraulein Schneider owns a boarding house. Attracted to a Jewish man, Schneider is in love with an enemy of society.

"Our intent is to have you take a moment to recognize the events of persecution that have taken place – that do take place – and our ignorance that allows it," said director Jennifer Novak.

A senior international studies and art history double major from Apex, Novak signed up for the directing position as soon as she found out Pauper Players would produce "Cabaret" this spring.

Novak strived for complete accuracy, so historical research was included with the rehearsals. Cast members were required to participate in "Holocaust Remembrance Week" earlier this month.

Within this story line, bright lights and risqué behavior of the dancers at the Kit Kat Club keeps the crowd entertained. Behind the glitter and

skimpy costumes, they relay the harsh realities in a lighter fashion. Sophomore Keenan Tabor, who portrays one of the Kit Kat girls, advises everyone to be prepared.

"It definitely pushes the envelope of what people are used to seeing. It has a lot of political commentary," she said. As a dancer, Tabor doesn't mind dressing in undergarments to fit the part.

Senior C. Hawkins from Henderson is the man behind the design of the costumes.

Hawkins' styles were showcased in "The Wiz" and "Little Shop of Horrors" last year. "At first people will be like 'Oh my gosh, these girls have no clothes on,' but if you know 'Cabaret,' you'll know what to expect," he said.

The rest of the crew behind the scenes includes a vocal coach, a music director, and a dialect coach to perfect the German accents.

The performers are no rookies to the stage. Sophomore Jeremy O'Keefe, who plays the Jewish love interest of Fraulein Schneider was featured on one of the crime reenactment's of "Unsolved Mysteries." A native of Wilmington, Del., the dramatic art major lives two hours from New York City. The short commute opened doors to summer internships helping the sophomore delve into his interest in directing.

"You'll laugh at a scene after you almost cried, because that's the nature of the show. That's the nature of life," O'Keefe said of this weekend's show.

Shara Merritt, a junior from Orlando, Fla., plays the main female



Joe Parker and Shara Merritt play the leads in the Pauper Players' production of "Cabaret."

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Pauper Players Keeps Playing

For 10 years, the student-run musical theater group Pauper Players has supplied Broadway hits to the UNC community.

- 1989: Grease
- 1990: Les Miserables, Anything Goes!
- 1991: Chicago, Guys and Dolls
- 1992: Sweeney Todd, Little Shop of Horrors
- 1993: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, West Side Story
- 1994: The Wiz, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas
- 1995: Kiss Me, Kate!, Into the Woods
- 1996: Chess, Hair
- 1997: Godspell, Little Shop of Horrors
- 1998: The Wiz, Gypsy
- 1999: Grease, Pippin
- 2000: Cabaret



role of Sally Bowles.

"I think 'Cabaret' is definitely traumatic, much deeper than you would assume," she said.

Other principle actors to watch include seniors Virginia Tuller, Joe Parker, and David Lorenco.

The show is located in the "Cabaret" inside of the Student Union tomorrow through Sunday. Showtimes are at 8 p.m. each night with two 3 p.m. matinees. Tickets are on sale now from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Pit.

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