

# Emotional Acting Saves Beckett Play

Studio 1's performance of "Waiting for Godot" will end with a show tonight at 5 p.m. at the Kenan Theater.

By CARL JACOBS  
Staff Writer

Studio 1's latest production is about as good as student theater gets. The acting is wonderful, staging near perfect and the resulting play is probably exactly how Samuel Beckett envisioned it.

**THEATER REVIEW**

Studio 1  
"Waiting for Godot"



The only problem is that the play is also painfully boring to watch. Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" exem-

plifies theater of the absurd. There's essentially no plot, and the dialogue, upon which the play relies, is meandering and confusing.

Nevertheless, the play delves into serious philosophical issues. Questions arise about perception, reality and religion.

It's like an old, slow, artistic black-and-white French movie. The experience isn't exactly enjoyable, but at least it makes you think. And if you manage to pay attention, you may learn something.

Directed by Adam Gerdt, "Waiting for Godot" opens with Gogo, a homeless man played by Ken Keech, asleep on a ramp next to a Plexiglas willow tree.

Soon his friend Didi, played by Charlie Todd, comes to help sit and wait for Godot.

They don't know who Godot is. They don't know where they're supposed to meet him. And they don't know if he's

ever going to come. So during the whole play they simply wait and try to figure out how to pass the time.

At the end of each day, a boy, played by Scott Turner, comes to tell the duo that Godot won't be coming today, but he'll surely come tomorrow. But another day passes without Godot's arrival onto the scene.

Dave Willner plays a rich man who occasionally walks past the waiting spot with his slave (Carey Sveen) on a leash.

Gerdt wisely chooses a simple set, consisting of a black backdrop and the aforementioned tree and ramp. The use of bare essentials helps the audience devote its full attention to thinking about the meaning behind the script's gibberish.

Expressive and talented performances from each actor, despite a dreadfully slow script, make the show worth the viewer's while and ultimately highlight the confused and dismal state

of the play.

The catch is that this confusion is supposed to mimic a confused reality. The audience doesn't know what actually is going on, because everything that it sees exists only in the characters' eyes. Several clues indicate that this account is less than accurate.

At some point during the play the viewers, except for maybe those three who fall asleep, figure out who Godot is supposed to symbolize. And the cynical message all comes together at that point. Or does it?

Thumbs up to all involved with the play, except for maybe Beckett himself.

The final showing of "Waiting for Godot" will take place at 5 p.m. tonight at the Elizabeth Price Kenan theater. Tickets are \$3 and can be purchased at the door.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

**ELECTION**

From Page 1

Attorney General Mike Easley are the Democratic front-runners. Former state representative Chuck Neely, Rep. Leo Daughtry, R-Johnston, and former Charlotte mayor Richard Vinroot lead the GOP pack.

The lieutenant governor's race is also important as the state looks to bolster its education programs. In addition to presiding over the state senate, the lieutenant governor sits on the N.C. Board of Education and the N.C. Board of Community Colleges.

Four Democrats and two Republicans are vying for their parties' nominations.

But Beyle said he expected only a minimal level of voter participation, despite the primary's importance.

"It'll be a low turnout, probably," Beyle said. "They usually are."

Thomas said she only expected about

a 20 percent turnout.

Vicki Boyer, president of Chapel Hill-Carrboro League of Women Voters, said voter apathy was a major problem with the primaries.

"People may not even be aware there is a primary (today)," she said.

Boyer also said people often felt like their votes did not count.

"It's being a part of the voting process that's more important than whether your candidate wins or loses," she said.

While some students said voting was too inconvenient, others said they planned to vote in the primaries.

Kristen Bradley, a freshman political science and physics major from Dallas, Texas, said many political issues affected young people who were, for the most part, disconnected from the political process.

"I'm going to vote and encourage other people to vote to encourage representation in our age group."

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**Get Out and Vote!**

Here are just a few of the possible polling sites around the county for today's primaries. For more information and running tallies, check out the county Web site at [www.co.orange.nc.us](http://www.co.orange.nc.us).

<b>Battle Park</b>	Chapel Hill Community Center	120 S. Estes Drive, Chapel Hill
<b>Booker Creek</b>	American Legion Building	1714 Legion Road, Chapel Hill
<b>Cameron Park</b>	Cameron Park School	240 St. Mary's Road, Hillsborough
<b>Carrboro</b>	Carrboro Elementary School	400 Shelton St., Carrboro
<b>Country Club</b>	Fetzer Gym, UNC campus	South Road, Chapel Hill
<b>Damascus</b>	Grey Culbreth School	225 Culbreth Drive, Chapel Hill
<b>Dogwood Acres</b>	Mary Scroggs Elementary School	501 Kildare Road, Chapel Hill
<b>East Franklin</b>	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church	300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill
<b>Eno</b>	Palmer's Grove Community Center	1049 Palmer's Grove Road, Hillsborough
<b>Greenwood</b>	General Administration Building	910 Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill
<b>Hillsborough</b>	Recreation & Parks Center	300 W. Tryon St., Hillsborough
<b>Lion's Club</b>	Lion's Club Building	131 Fidelity St., Carrboro
<b>Mason Farm</b>	Chapel Hill Bible Church	1200 Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill
<b>North Greensboro</b>	Hargraves Recreation Center	216 N. Roberson St., Chapel Hill
<b>OWASA</b>	OWASA Administration Building	400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro
<b>St. John</b>	McDougle Middle School	900 Old Fayetteville Road, Chapel Hill
<b>Town Hall</b>	Carrboro Town Hall	301 W. Main St., Carrboro
<b>Weaver Dairy</b>	Carol Woods Retirement Center	750 Weaver Dairy Road, Chapel Hill
<b>Westwood</b>	Frank Porter Graham Elementary	101 Smith Level Road, Chapel Hill

SOURCE: ORANGE COUNTY WEB SITE

**SMILEY**

From Page 1

acknowledged the difficulties the Elections Board faced this year, citing the fact that Chairwoman Catherine Yates was the only returning member. "I'm not going to use this year as a model," she said. "I've had experience going through these problems. I've learned from them."

Downs praised Smiley's commitment to upholding integrity within the process but said putting someone without experience into the position would only perpetuate past mistakes.

Matthews said he would continue to support Downs for the post. "She is the best candidate and the most qualified, and she will do an excellent job."

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**SENIORS**

From Page 1

a month's worth of work done in two weeks," she said. "I'm overwhelmed with schoolwork, leaving UNC, finding somewhere to live (at ASU) and going to a new place."

Biggs, a senior from Hiddenite and Meadows' roommate for four years, said she was glad to be staying at UNC so she didn't have to think about graduation stresses. "I'm more than happy to be staying here," Biggs said. "Some days I feel like I've done my time at UNC, but most days I'm happy to be here another year."

Busy with schoolwork, Biggs is also interviewing for nursing jobs for the summer, something that is required for her major. She and Meadows seemed sad to be leaving each other, but both said they would e-mail often and pay a higher telephone bill next year.

Biggs said it would take time to become accustomed to Meadows not being nearby, something that will make this Graduation Day sadder.

"That day will be sad because Leslie is leaving and I'm not," Biggs said. "I want to be here next year, but it will be weird and I might feel left out."

"I've been doing senior stuff. I wanted to be a senior with my senior friends."

Wagner, who will graduate with a business degree, said he had spent much of his time with his senior friends. He said he had been more emotional than usual, being intensely excited to start a new life but sad to leave people he might not see again.

"I really haven't wanted to talk about graduation," the senior from Cary said. "I'm going out as much as possible, and I will miss going out with my friends here."

Wagner said his UNC experience had changed him. "When I was in high

school, I didn't have the desire to make a radical change and leave North Carolina," he said.

"I never thought I'd be moving to New York City four years later. I have a wider outlook on life, and I like seeing new places and meeting new people."

Even though Wagner said he didn't feel old enough to graduate, he was thrilled to be taking the next step. "I'm sick of talking about case studies," he said. "I am ready to do them."

But Wagner said what he would remember most about UNC was a mixture of classroom and social life.

"I've felt challenged, and I have pride in my degree," he said. "But I didn't have to sacrifice a social life to get that."

And while the UNC experience is different for all, their scattered memories include sunny days lounging on Polk Place, celebrations after wins against sports rivals, study sessions in the Undergraduate Library, nights on Franklin Street and the survival of natural disasters like Hurricane Fran and the historic snowfall this past winter.

But Eapen said great memories went beyond the larger events. "The best memories are the things you don't expect to happen," he said. "Those are memories that happen one night when you're with friends and something crazy happens. ... The things you share with other people become your fondest memories."

And with the seniors heading beyond the boundaries of UNC's campus, they still seem to remember that the path leading away is also one that will bring them back.

Biggs, Eapen, Meadows and Wagner said their lifelong friends and memories would help them return to their college days in Chapel Hill — at least in their minds — long after they exit Carolina.

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**PROTESTS**

From Page 1

The Gap and Nike Corp.

"I'm here to let the community know that workers, not rich corporations, run the world," she said.

Jon Wexler, a UNC student and member of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, said more grassroots activism was imperative to bring about real social change.

"There were over 340,000 people involved in the original May Day," he said. "We need to rebuild that effort."

The event featured Rania Masri, the coordinator of the Iraq Action Coalition, who spoke out about the implications of the U.S. sanctions on Iraq. About 50

people convened outside of the Community Church to hear her speak. "It is easy to visualize bombs, but hard to visualize sanctions," she said. "The U.S. is bombing Iraq, and the sanctions are directly contributing to the deaths of thousands of people — it's genocide."

She said 500,000 Iraqi people had died directly because of U.S. sanctions, and 5,000 children under age five were dying every month.

"Bill Clinton and (British Prime Minister) Tony Blair might as well be shooting each child in the head," she said.

"It's our government that should be indicted for human rights violations."

The City Editor can be reached at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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Mixed paper (school paper, cereal boxes)	Orange County Drop-off Sites (968-2788)
Chemicals, spent batteries, paint, spray cans	May 6 or June 3 Household Hazardous Waste day (968-2788)

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