



DTH/EMILY SCHNUR

The Carrboro-based Transactors Improv Company performs "The Musical!" The story idea and title are chosen by the audience.

Improv Troupe Performs Off the Cuff

By Kit Foss
Staff Writer

For most thespians, acting and rehearsing lines present enough of a challenge without the added pressure of spontaneously producing a musical.

In contrast, Transactors Improv Company masterminds an improvisational musical, complete with a clear storyline, music and characters, all of which are inspired by only a title and an objective taken from audience suggestions.

During one recent performance of "The Musical!" director Greg Hohn focused the audience's random phrase "alien abduction" into the goal of "surviving alien abductions" and the phrase

"whipped cream" into the title "Whipped Cream from Mars."

With this title to guide them, the six-member cast created an hourlong musical. Hohn said the fast-paced nature of the show requires actors to perform on impulse and let the musical's plot evolve organically.

"We watch each other and let the story take care of itself," he said.

While the cast is not aware of the plot until curtain, Hohn said the actors use certain tools to help facilitate improvisational work. Typically, the company begins the performance grouped in pairs, progresses into triples, and winds up by dancing and singing a finale as a company.

Devices such as using archetypal

themes and characters and a minimalist stage allow actors to define their roles fully while they narrate a clear story without the burden of props. Hohn said the actors practice an AABA rhyme scheme when they create songs on stage and aim for a catchy hook so the audience can go home singing.

Of course, Hohn said, rehearsals are vital to learning improvisational theater. "In rehearsals, we focus on how to practice the skills necessary for the originality of long-form improv," he said.

The actors are not the only ones improvising throughout "The Musical!" Pianist Mark Lewis and drummer Matt Savage produce and perform spontaneous music by listening for the tune of

a song in creation and picking up the melody, whether it be a chiller alien-abduction theme such as "Daddy Was an Earthling" or the gracefully eloquent tones of "A Perfect Day for Lemonade."

In directing actors and technicians through the creative process, Hohn said his primary goal is to elicit an "audience response and to tell a good story with concrete scenes." He said having a stellar cast and a great audience helps, too. "The Musical!" is playing at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$10. Call 929-2787 for more information.

The Arts & Entertainment Editor can be reached at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Today

noon - Masters of old-time bluegrass and gospel, **Jerry and Tammy Sullivan**, will bring their singing to a free lunchtime concert on the terrace at Graham Memorial.

The Sullivans will both play and talk about their music.

7 p.m. - The UNC-CH Medieval Studies Curriculum presents "The Seventh Seal," directed by Ingmar Bergman, as the first feature of the 2000-

01 Medieval Studies Film Festival.

The film will be shown in DVD in the Commons Room of Graham Memorial.

Admission is free.

Monday

5:30 p.m. - A **Project Literacy** information session will be held in room 213 of the Student Union.

Come be a part of Kids Read, ESL teaching, and Adult Literacy projects!

7 p.m. - A general meeting will be held for **Delta Delta Sigma**, the pre-dental honor fraternity, in the down-

stairs lobby of the Student Union.

8 p.m. - **Young Democrats** will host their third meeting of the year.

The meeting will include an open discussion of Affirmative Action.

The meeting will be held in Union 224.

All students are invited to attend and participate.

Tuesday

5:30 p.m. - Thinking about law school?

Jenni Browning from the UNC School of Law, and Karen James from Academic Advising Programs, are holding a **pre-law information session** in Union 210.

8 p.m. - Tryouts for **UNC Women's Club Basketball** will begin today and last through Thursday in Fetzer Gym B.

The Daily Tar Heel

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The University and Towns

IN BRIEF

CAA to Hold 5K Walk In Honor of Hooker

The Carolina Athletic Association will hold the second annual Michael Hooker Memorial 5k run/walk to honor the former UNC chancellor this Saturday.

The race starts at 9 a.m. at the Old Well. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Cost is \$10 with a T-shirt and \$6 without a T-shirt. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

All UNC students, faculty and com-

munity members are invited to participate in this event. Last year's race raised over \$5,000 for Chancellor Hooker's Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Chancellor Hooker addressed the future challenges of our university by proposing the Carolina Computing Initiative and proposing the Master Plan, enabling UNC to intelligently face growing enrollment and stay at the zenith of technological innovation.

Send any questions to Michael Songer at songer@email.unc.edu.

Principal Leaves System To Take New Position

Terrence Young, principal of Ephesus Elementary School, was named as an associate superintendent of the Guilford County Schools.

He will be one of two associate superintendents for school improvement in the Guilford County Schools, which has a student enrollment of about 60,000 students and 95 schools.

Young has been principal at Ephesus since 1996.

He was assistant principal there from 1994-96 and enrichment coordinator for the district during the preceding year.

He taught math at Culbreth Middle School from 1990-92. He also taught in the Science Technology Entry Program at Columbia University.

He holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from UNC-Chapel Hill and bachelor's and master's degrees in math education from the City College of New York.

Phillips Middle School Taps Assistant Principal

David Lyons has been named interim assistant principal of Phillips Middle School. Lyons replaces Richard Pierce, who has been named interim principal.

Lyons was principal of Glenwood Elementary School from 1989-91 and has worked as a principal in Durham. He holds a master's degree and administrative certification from N.C. Central University.

From Staff Reports

SPORTS SHORTS

This Weekend at Carolina:

Field Hockey vs. Old Dominion

1 pm Saturday, Sept. 16 at Henry Stadium

FAN APPRECIATION DAY!

FREE T-shirts to the first 150 UNC students
FREE hot dogs & cokes for the first 300 fans

Field Hockey vs. Virginia

1 pm Sunday, Sept. 17

WACHOVIA'S ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

First 75 in attendance get a
FREE Wachovia water bottle



Hardee's Students & Faculty Admitted FREE w/ID!

Back By Popular Demand

Salsa Saturday!!

10:30pm-2:00am

Starting This Saturday 9/16/00

Free Hors d'oeuvres

Please join us this Saturday
and get in **FREE!**
Everyone 18 & over
invited w/ID



137 E. Franklin St. • Chapel Hill • 933-6133

FREE LUNCH SPECIAL!!

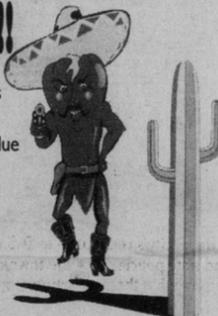
Buy one lunch special and two beverages
at the regular price and receive
a second lunch special of equal or lesser value

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BANDIDO'S MEXICAN CAFE

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Michael K. Hooker Memorial 5K

Presented by the Carolina Athletic Association



Saturday, September 16, 2000, 9 a.m.

Registration 8-9 a.m. starts at the Old Well

\$10 to register with a T-shirt

\$6 to register without a T-shirt

Refreshments will be provided.

The race benefits the Michael Hooker Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Chancellor Hooker was a tremendous supporter
of UNC athletics and the UNC Community.

The 5K is a great way to honor his memory.

Last year's race raised over \$5000 for the Scholarship Fund.

We invite all members of the UNC Community to participate.

For more information, call CAA at 962-4CAA

or e-mail songer@email.unc.edu

