

# PlayMakers' tawdry 'Lear' comes up short

BY NICK PARKER

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In the school of Shakespearian tragedy, "King Lear" might not be the most famous, taking a backseat to the bourgeoisie blockbusters "Macbeth" and "Hamlet," but it's by far the most tragic.

Fathers banish their children, power-hungry villains hunt their siblings, devilish adulterers create dark alliances and when it is all said and done, the stage is littered with corpses.

It's a recipe for success.

But PlayMakers Repertory Company's latest production of the royal blood bath just can't keep up with the script.

## THEATER REVIEW

**KING LEAR**  
PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY  
THEATER  
SATURDAY, JAN. 17

★★

Dry delivery, a dreary set, drab costumes and a generally heartless feel make PlayMakers' "King Lear" more draining than depressing, more monotonous than moving.

It seems as if director Mark Wing-Davey tried to drum up the tumultuous tragedy in a different light but just missed the mark. It was a pioneering step but in a direction that would have been

better left unexplored.

None of the individual parts was especially poor — save for the set design, which was one rusty gear short of a Dickensian assembly line — but all together the production added up to much less than the sum of its parts.

Michael Winters' Lear started strong, with raw power and self-consuming stubbornness, but he wilted in the final act after realizing the depth of his loss.

The dark daughters, Gonerill (Rebecca Wisocky) and Regan (Carolyn Baeumler), were both cruel and dangerous but fell short on the finer points. Regan's drunken swagger was more silly than

telling, and Gonerill's cold-heartedness made her late-blooming love affair an unbelievable sex shocker.

Charles Parnell's underhanded Edmond — with sinister jealousy and bastardly acceptance — was the best of the bunch.

His performance, however, was lost in the uninteresting industrial set and strange, shocker scenes. To try and highlight the passion and decadence just under the surface of "King Lear," Wing-Davey spiced up the show with sex and nudity.

But when Parnell and Wisocky start humping in a rusty elevator box over an enraged and drunken Baeumler, it comes off as crass and even a little comic.

Top that off with three naked men posing under a PCP pipe shower — at different times, thank goodness — and it seems like Wing-Davey was digging to keep the audience awake.

It isn't that PlayMakers' "King Lear" was bad, it's just that there's so much more to work with. Next time less penis, more emotion.

Contact the A&E Editor  
at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).



COURTESY OF PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY  
Ray Dooley literally plays the Fool in PlayMakers' adaptation of the powerful "King Lear," Shakespeare's dramatic picture of familial strife.

## THE Daily Crossword

By Philip J. Anderson

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## ACROSS

- 1 Table extension
- 5 Moving vehicles
- 9 Bea Arthur sitcom
- 14 Primitive plant
- 15 Part of Q.E.D.
- 16 Metal-shaping stand
- 17 Superbowl XV MVP and his team
- 20 Quarterback Rodney
- 21 Flue problem
- 22 Cleanup tool
- 23 Objective
- 25 Batty
- 27 Superbowl VIII MVP and his team
- 34 Took off
- 35 Cassini of fashion
- 36 Vote to accept
- 38 God of war
- 40 Mosaic pieces
- 43 Blackthorn
- 44 Fowles novel, with "The"
- 46 Fulda feeder
- 48 Heavy weight
- 49 Superbowl IX MVP and his team
- 53 Sahl or Walker
- 54 Greek letter
- 55 Regarding
- 58 Velvety flora
- 61 Host
- 65 Superbowl VI MVP and his team
- 68 Genetic copy

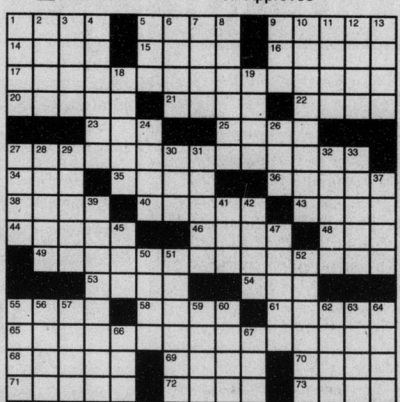
## DOWN

- 1 Reindeer herdsman
- 2 Glamour rival
- 3 Fever with chills
- 4 Chinese card game
- 5 Victory sign
- 6 Part of B.A.
- 7 W. alliance
- 8 Constitutional
- 9 \_ tai cocktail
- 10 Automaton
- 11 Iris part
- 12 Long dagger
- 13 Different
- 18 Matsui of jazz
- 19 On the apex
- 24 Whiskey ingredient

## ACROSS

- 26 Half a dance?
- 27 Stuff
- 28 Ms. Bernhardt
- 29 Petrozavodsk's lake
- 30 "Agnus \_"
- 31 Stares at
- 32 Actor Nick
- 33 Animal track
- 37 Sawbucks
- 39 Overcome
- 41 Summer hrs. in NYC
- 42 Leak slowly
- 45 Sellout letters
- 47 Stitch again
- 50 " \_ la Douce"

- 51 Maintains a supply of
- 52 Dances low to the ground
- 55 Author of "The Nazarene"
- 56 Caen neighbor
- 57 Santa Fe neighbor
- 59 Cap on a cane
- 60 Aberdeen fellow
- 62 Musical p.s.
- 63 Looked at
- 64 Being: Lat.
- 66 Egyptian god of pleasure
- 67 Approves



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**HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR INTERVIEWING SKILLS:** Learn how to impress employers. Wed. Jan. 21 6:00p 239B Hanes

**INTERNATIONAL CAREERS PANEL:** Hear first-hand information from representatives of the US State Department, United Nations, US AID, Peace Corps, and the NC Dept. of Commerce. Wed. Jan. 21 4:00p 239B Hanes

**BIOTECHNOLOGY NETWORKING NIGHT:** Come meet several working professionals in an informal environment to learn more about what it takes to work in biotechnology. Thu. Jan. 22 5:30-7:00p 239B Hanes

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## EMPLOYER PRESENTATIONS

Neiman Marcus, Thu. Jan. 22, 7-9p Carolina Inn  
Green Corps, Mon. Jan. 26 6-7p 307 Hanes Hall

## RESUME SUBMISSIONS FOR ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

Interviews for February 16-20  
Submit Resume by Date in Parentheses

Philip Morris USA, Summer Sales Intern (1/25)  
Cintas, Management Trainee (1/25), Summer Scholars Internship (1/25)  
Ferguson Enterprises, Sales / Management Training Program (1/25)  
Wachovia, Consumer Risk Analyst (1/28)  
Moore Wallace, Outside Sales Representative (2/6)  
Western Southern Financial Group, Sales Representative (2/17)  
BB&T Capital Markets (Equity Group - Corporate Finance), Not Yet Posted

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