

I'M LOVIN' IT



DTH/GALEN CLARKE

Filling Memorial Hall with his voice for the last song Saturday night, sophomore Anoop Desai of the Clef Hangers sings a solo from "I'll Make Love to You" by Boyz II Men at a sold-out concert. The Clef Hangers was one of the last groups to perform in pre-renovation Memorial Hall.

All-female cast cultures a pearl

BY ANDREW CHAN
STAFF WRITER

An impressive all-female cast takes the stage at the Paul Green Theatre for PlayMakers Repertory Company's second production of the year.

Michele Lowe's "String of Pearls" seamlessly blends universal emotions and bawdy humor.

Its narrative structure, which hinges on a string of pearls that ends up in the hands of several owners, threatens to be irredeemably artificial.

But Tony-winning director Trezana Beverley highlights a looseness and dynamism that distracts the viewer from taking the plot device too seriously.

The play is a refreshing opportunity for PlayMakers to emphasize the Paul Green Theatre's thrust stage, which — unlike the typical platform — moves out into the audience.

The four actresses take advantage of its shape and space with energetic, choreographed movements.

Lowe's play is a collection of vignettes, and, perhaps inevitably, some stories are stronger than others. It starts on a high note with a woman who first received the pearls from her dead husband. The jokes about female sexuality in the scene are as cheerfully raunchy as "The Vagina Monologues."

Later parts are reminiscent of the cancer-themed play "Wit" and gal-pal movies such as "Waiting to Exhale."

The main flaw of the material is that the characters and their lives almost never rise above the anecdotal. Lowe's writing speeds past 27 women who are affected by the pearls without staying long enough to fully empathize with them.

Lowe mostly relies on soliloquies instead of dialogue to communicate backstory and feelings. In a play about the unexpected

THEATER REVIEW

STRING OF PEARLS
PLAYMAKERS REPERTORY COMPANY
SATURDAY

★★★★

connections among women, the characters oddly are solitary speakers and their relationships are left under-explored.

Lowe also is too quick to pull out her bag of archetypal female symbols such as moons and oceans.

Yet the play delights when it succeeds against the odds. Often it flirts with ridiculousness and

comes through as funny and insightful.

Diane Ciesla stands out among the fine cast as an actress who can straddle comedy and drama, self-satire and self-celebration.

This production is also fascinating for its casting of two white and two black women, which results in randomly interracial combinations of families and friends.

What might have seemed like a naively utopian depiction of sisterhood between the races actually leads to subtle observations on identity politics.

There are moments when the gimmick of pearls feels too old-fashioned to address the modern

IF YOU GO

Time: 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.
Date: Tuesday through Sunday, Dec. 11
Location: Paul Green Theatre
Info: www.playmakersrep.org

concerns with love, sex, death and responsibility that the play seeks to explore.

But when "String of Pearls" gets at pathos through unifying laughter, it is an honest acknowledgment of suffering and a buoyant affirmation of life.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Police press on robbery probe

FROM STAFF REPORTS

An elderly Chapel Hill woman at University Mall was approached by two women Wednesday who took \$8,000 from her and got away.

According to information from the Chapel Hill Police Department, the suspects approached the 80-year-old victim at about 2 p.m. and asked her to accompany them to their vehicle, where they urged her to write a check for \$8,000.

The suspects first drove the victim to the SunTrust Bank at the mall, where one of the suspects gave a teller the check, receiving \$4,000 cash and a \$4,000 cashier's check, then drove the victim to the SunTrust Bank at University Square on Franklin Street, where

the same suspect accompanied the woman into the bank to cash the cashier's check, the release states.

The police information indicates that the suspects returned the victim to University Mall after she gave them \$8,000 cash. One suspect is a female of average build possibly between 30 and 40 years of age. The other is a light-complexioned black female, 50 to 55 years of age with a large build and light brown hair. She was wearing a purple turtleneck, dark pants and glasses.

Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to call either the police at 968-2760 or Crimestoppers at 942-7515.

Any help might involve a reward of up to \$1,200.



COURTESY OF CHAPEL HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT
Police investigations into an \$8,000 robbery Wednesday continue. The department released this photo of a woman suspected in the incident.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- McArthur Davis, Pastor Herbert Davis and Richard Brown will discuss black philanthropy and how it begets self-determination at 9 a.m. today at the WCOM Radio station, 201 N. Greensboro St., in Carrboro.
- Nelson Schwab, chairman of the UNC Board of Trustees, will be speaking on the Board of Trustees and its relationship to the UNC Board of Governors at 11 a.m. today in the Kresge Foundation Common Room of Graham Memorial.
- The Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership will host "Be Safe 101," a personal safety workshop, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. today at University Presbyterian Church's fellowship hall. The event is free to employees of downtown businesses.
- John Edwards will deliver a speech at 4:30 p.m. today in Murphey 116. After the speech, Edwards will be available for questions and chatting with individual students.
- The Chapel Hill Town Council will convene at 7 p.m. today at Town Hall to discuss, among other things, an application for a special-use permit modification from the University's cogeneration plant and a request from the Mason Farm neighborhood association to establish the area as a neighborhood conservation district.
- There will be a film screening of "Venus Boys" from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. today in the Pit to conclude last week's Transgender Awareness Week.
- The Carolina Union Activities Board will present a self-defense workshop at 7:30 p.m. today in the Student Union Cabaret. The free workshop will be led by Lt. Angela Carmen, who will demonstrate self-defense movements and tactics.
- Overeaters Anonymous will hold a meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. today at 300 E. Rosemary St. in the Augsburg Room. For more information call 383-0937.
- UNC's Charanga Carolina will perform from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. today in the Great Hall of the Student Union. The group specializes in classic salsa music from New York, Cuba and Puerto Rico. Doors open at 7 p.m.
- The Somerhill Gallery's 28th annual holiday collection of artwork for seasonal gift giving will be on display through Jan. 7. The exhibition, which opened Sunday, features paintings, sculpture, photography, art jewelry and artist-created ornaments. The gallery is located at 1800 E. Franklin St., in Chapel Hill.

To make a calendar submission, visit <http://www.dailytarheel.com> for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

POLICE LOG

- Two teens were arrested Friday at Pantana Bob's Restaurant and Bar, 300 W. Rosemary St., on charges related to drinking, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Jack Magee, 18, of 204 Granville Towers East, was cited at 11:20 p.m. for underage possession of a malt beverage, reports state.
- Jonathan Worth Morgan, 18, a University student, was cited at 11:30 p.m. for fraudulent use of an ID, according to reports.
- Morgan and Magee are scheduled to appear in Chapel Hill district criminal court Jan. 24.
- A Carrboro woman was arrested Friday on charges of shoplifting, Chapel Hill police reports state.
- Melissa Ann Taylor, 28, of 100 Crest Drive, was cited for shoplifting \$353.72 in assorted items from A Southern Season, 201 S. Estes Drive, and was trespassed from University Mall, according to reports.
- Taylor is scheduled to appear in district criminal court in Hillsborough on Jan. 23.
- A Chapel Hill man was arrested Friday on charges of failure to comply with a court order, Chapel Hill police reports state.
- Ray Matthew Norwood, 41, of 1105J4 N.C. 54, was arrested on Whitaker Street for failing to comply with a court order to stay away from that street, according to reports.
- Norwood was remanded to Orange County Jail on a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Hillsborough district criminal court Jan. 16.
- Nirmal Khandoobhai, 22, of Garner, was arrested and charged with felony possession of stolen goods Thursday, according to University police reports.
- A Proxima projector owned by the University, valued at \$6,500, was found in his room, 2132 Granville Towers South, reports state.
- Khandoobhai was remanded to Orange County Jail on a \$1,000 bond.
- An intoxicated man was arrested on a charge of second-degree trespassing Saturday outside gate five of Kenan Stadium, according to University police reports.
- George Hall, 21, of 505D N. Greensboro St., was told to leave the premises repeatedly, reports state.
- Hall left but was found by officers again an hour later and was arrested, according to reports.
- He was released on a written promise to appear in court Dec. 12.

The Daily Tar Heel

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It is the policy of The Daily Tar Heel to report any inaccurate information published in our newspaper as soon as the error is discovered.

Any incorrect information printed on the front page will result in a correction printed on the front page. Any incorrect information printed on any other page will be corrected at the top left of page 3. Errors committed on the Editorial Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.

Please contact Managing Editor Joseph Schwartz, at josephschwartz@unc.edu, with issues about this policy or to report corrections.

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