

DTH/JENNIFER ZENG
Joseph Haj, PlayMakers Repertory Company's producing artistic director, discusses his role as director of "Amadeus" and previews the set March 26.

'Amadeus' relies on power of music

PRC presents story of Mozart's feud

BY JOHN CHOQUETTE
STAFF WRITER

As the director of "Amadeus," the final show of PlayMakers Repertory Company's 2007-08 season, Joseph Haj is enthusiastic about his role in the play's production.

He's animated, but he doesn't speak lightly.

"It's huge," Haj said about the size of the Amadeus cast.

But he said the number of performers doesn't bother him. Having a large cast for the play was his original intention.

"I wanted to do something that could include our entire company," said Haj, also PlayMakers' producing artistic director. "We're in the rare position where we have our own resident company."

"Amadeus" 21-member cast will perform the Tony Award-winning play written by Peter Shaffer beginning today at 8 p.m. The show will run until April 20.

"Amadeus," the story of real-life rival pianists Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Antonio Salieri, opens with Salieri addressing the audience.

Haj said the audience serves a special role in the production as the "ghosts of the future" to whom Salieri is telling his story.

Throughout the play, Salieri, played by drama professor and PlayMakers actor Ray Dooley, recounts how his conflict with Mozart ultimately led to a dispute with his god.

Haj noted how themes of jealousy, obsession and humanity bring up "big questions about our universe and how God interacts with us."

"One of the great challenges of making this play is getting God into the room," he said. "It's the sounds and the lights and Mozart's music that does this."

Considering that the play is about dueling musicians, Salieri and Mozart, played by Vince Nappo, don't disappoint. They will act at a piano that was especially

ATTEND 'AMADEUS'

Time: Various times today-April 20
Location: Paul Green Theatre
Info: www.playmakersrep.org

crafted for the production during a large part of the show.

The thrust stage of the Paul Green Theatre will host mirrored columns that move to change the size of the space from scene to scene.

Haj said these changes represent the past and present, as well as the feeling of motion the play brings.

"The play doesn't want to wait," he said. "It wants to keep a huge sense of forward momentum."

Haj emphasized the importance of these scene changes, which are not seen as clearly in the Academy Award-winning movie from 1984 of the same name.

"The play so clearly exists in a theater. The mistake would have been trying to make the play into a movie," Haj said.

And so audiences shouldn't expect the play to be exactly like the movie, Haj said. The play inspired the film, but Shaffer, who wrote the screenplay as well, crafted the two very differently.

And Dooley said he is convinced that PlayMakers' rendition of the performance will reflect the quality of the script.

"The play is one of the great pieces of theater written in the last 50 years or so," Dooley said.

"Anytime you have an opportunity to work on a script this wonderful or see it, it's a cause for rejoicing."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Your Home Is In Burlington...



ETHAN POINTE *Burlington's only 5-Star Luxury Apartment Community*

Conveniently located between the Triad & Triangle

For More Information, Call 336.584.3337

Directions:

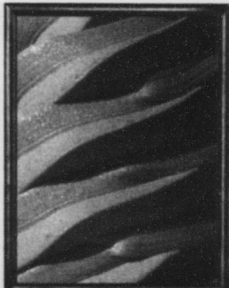
Take I-40/85 to University Drive (exit 140-Elon College). Turn right onto University Drive, then turn right onto Kirkpatrick Road. Ethan Pointe is on the left.

2978 Ethan Pointe Drive
Burlington, NC 27215

Hours:
Monday-Friday 8:00am-7:00pm
Saturday 10am-5 pm & Sunday 1-5pm

www.EthanPointe.com

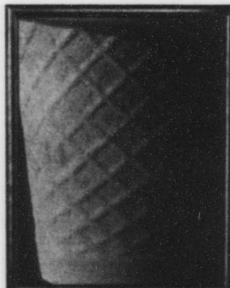
The art of a guilt free treat!



10 calories per ounce



Remarkable flavors



Affordable prices

Downtown Chapel Hill
106 W. Franklin St. (Next to He's Not Here)
919-942-PUMP

HOURS:
M-Sat 11:30AM-11:30PM
Sun 12:00-11:30PM



www.yogurtpump.com

Serving UNC Frozen Yogurt Since 1982.

Top seed in your career bracket



BusinessWeek ranks Deloitte #1 in "50 Best Places to Launch a Career," September 2007. Join our team.

To discover your opportunities with Deloitte and find out why *BusinessWeek* ranked us the best place to start a career, text "Deloitte" to 78573 or visit www.deloitte.com/us/LaunchYourCareer.

Deloitte.

Audit . Tax . Consulting . Financial Advisory.

As used in this document, "Deloitte" means Deloitte LLP and its subsidiaries. Please see www.deloitte.com/us/about for a detailed description of the legal structure of Deloitte LLP and its subsidiaries.

Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Copyright © 2008 Deloitte Development LLC. All rights reserved.

