Lab! Theatre series explores adolescence

BY LELAND TABARES

Starting today, youth culture and politics will be explored with the debut of Lab! Theatre's performance series.

Lab! opens with Kenneth Lonergan's "This is Our Youth" and Tony Kushner's "A Bright Room Called Day," which will be performed in repertory through next Thursday in the Center for Dramatic Art's Kenan Theatre.

This is the first time in the group's history that plays have been performed in repertory.

"It is good for everyone because it gives the audience the opportunity to parallel two different shows. while exposing undergraduate theater students to as many shows as possible," said Erin Hanehan, a Lab! producer.

The first play being performed, "This is Our Youth," takes place in Reagan-era America and tackles issues of adolescence and matu-

The characters feel adrift in a country that comes to reject the 1960s-style liberalism that the characters were brought up to

"It invariably speaks to every one," said assistant director Devin Conroy. "Everyone has their own response to the themes presented in the play."

The play pertains to youth culture and traditional gender roles in society.

What makes repertory appealing is that you get make comparisons and similarities between the two shows," said Jon Haas, director "This is Our Youth." "You allow a discussion between shows - they speak to each other."

Kushner's "A Bright Room Called Day," the second show to be performed, complements the youth culture explicated in Lonergan's

Kushner's play explores the downfall of the Weimar Republic and Hitler's rise to power to serve as a commentary on our contem-porary political climate.

"The play deals with personal responsibility and social responsi-bility," said Sarah Berk, a producer of Lab! Theatre. "It exploits the human element." Both shows have been rehears-

ing since the beginning of the semester. The cast said they are

Contact the Arts Editor

ATTEND THE PERFORMANCE

Info: www.unc.edu/labtheatre

Time: Various times through Oct. 30 **Location:** Kenan Theatre

well-prepared and up to the chal-

lenges, but we have a lot of sup-port," Hanehan said. "The plays

are approachable by college audi-

Andrew Slater, a producer of Lab! Theatre, said Kenan Theatre

is the perfect place for the two per-

"Kenan Theatre is such an inti-

After much rehearsal, Haas said

"It's about people," Haas said.

growing up, which everyone here

mate personal space," he said. "The

actors perform right in front of the

he is ready for his cast to perform in front of a mostly student audi-

formances.

We know we will face chal-

Outdoorsman to give reading BY RACHAEL FARLOW

Outdoorsman John Lane hopes to make UNC students look around and observe their own environments more closely.

A seasoned kayaker, accomplished nonfiction writer and Wofford College professor, Lane will read from his books "Circling Home" and "The Best of the Kudzu Telegraph" at 3:30 p.m. today in Greenlaw Hall.

UNC English and compara tive literature professor Bland Simpson invited Lane to come speak as part of the creative writ-

"He's very enthusiastic about the outdoors," he said. "He's interested in everything."

Simpson said he hoped Lane would be able to draw students to come to hear the reading.

Lane, who spent years travel-ing to all corners of the world to explore nature, came back to his hometown of Spartanburg, S.C. to see what had been under his nose for years.
For his book "Circling Home,"

"I find myself in all three characters in this play. It has to deal with Lane traced a plate on a map with Spartanburg at the center and ventured out to see all that lay inside the circle.
"I'm a place-based writer," Lane

said. "I write first-person narraat artsdesk@unc.edu. | tives about my time in nature."

Wofford College professor John ane writes first-person narratives about (his) time in nature.

Simpson described his placebased style of nature writing as an intimate relationship with the writer and the outdoors. He said any interaction that takes place between the author and the world

is open to write about. would include anything from the cell to the cosmos," he said.

Lane said students can learn from his writing process and how an author tackles each piece they

They will see how a very witty and crafty writer tackles a subject, whether it's his neigh-borhood in Spartanburg or the

Chattooga River," he said.
"Ultimately all writers have to do the same things - sit down and write — but they all bring fresh perspectives from how they do things," Simpson said. Erin Collums, a journalism major who plans on attending

Lane's lecture, also studies poet-

She said she believes all students should take advantage of ATTEND THE READING Time: 3:30 p.m. today Location: 223 Greenlaw Hall, Donovan Lounge

hearing writers who come to speak on campus.

"It really broadens your perspective," she said. "It's a way to get a hands-on experience with

what you are reading."

Collums said that hearing a writer read aloud was a pleasure, mentioning the importance of hearing poetry spoken aloud. And since UNC students will

be hearing from an accomplished poet and author, Simpson said he hopes Lane will leave a lasting impression.

You never know when someone is going to hear a suggestion that's going to work, said, "when the visiting writer says something that unlocks the

John Lane said he hopes students take away an appreciation of their natural surroundings from his works.

"I hope that readers look at their own place," Lane said.

"I hope they look around a little more closely."

> Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

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YOUTH BASKETBALL Part-time staff of-ficials and volunteer coaches are needed at the YMCAI Season begins January 10th, but preparations are already underway. Opportunities abound, so work or volun-teer with a friend! Contact Mike Meyen, mmeyen@chymca.org, 919-442-9622, for additional information.

SURVEY TAKERS NEEDED: Make \$5-\$25 per survey. Do it in your spare time. www.GetPaidToThink.com.

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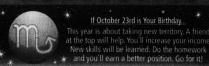
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mini (May 21-June 21)
day is a 7 - You're entering a four-week
asse when your emphasis will be on

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
Today is a 7 - Gather up as much as you can, while it's available. This refers to

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today is an 8 - Turn some of that energy into folding green. There's plenty of work to be done. Choose a job that looks profitable and get into it. Opportunities are abundant.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today is a 6 - It'll be easier for you to concentrate now. You won't fall for fanciful stories; you'll dig to get at the facts. This phase will be very interesting, but you might get your hands dirty.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today is an 8 - Go ahead and confront authority, it looks like you'll win. Just after you stand up for your position, more money comes into your pocket. If you know what needs to be done, just tell them,

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