

Lab! Theatre series explores adolescence

BY LELAND TABARES STAFF WRITER 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 maturity.

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

"It invariably speaks to everyone," 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 of "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 play.

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

"The play deals with personal responsibility and social responsibility," said Sarah Berk, a producer of Lab! Theatre. "It exploits the human element."

Both shows have been rehearsing since the beginning of the semester. The cast said they are

ATTEND THE PERFORMANCE Time: Various times through Oct. 30 Location: Kenan Theatre Info: www.unc.edu/labtheatre

well-prepared and up to the challenge.

"We know we will face challenges, but we have a lot of support," Hanehan said. "The plays are approachable by college audiences."

Andrew Slater, a producer of Lab! Theatre, said Kenan Theatre is the perfect place for the two performances.

"Kenan Theatre is such an intimate personal space," he said. "The actors perform right in front of the audience."

After much rehearsal, Haas said he is ready for his cast to perform in front of a mostly student audience.

"It's about people," Haas said. "I find myself in all three characters in this play. It has to deal with growing up, which everyone here is doing."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

Outdoorsman to give reading

BY RACHAEL FARLOW STAFF WRITER

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 comparative literature professor Bland Simpson invited Lane to come speak as part of the creative writing program's lecture series.

"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 traveling 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," Lane traced a path 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 narratives about my time in nature."



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

Simpson described his place-based 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.

"I 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 write.

"They will see how a very witty and crafty writer tackles a subject, whether it's his neighborhood 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 poetry.

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," he said, "when the visiting writer says something that unlocks the door."

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.

Place a Classified: www.dailytarheel.com/classifieds or Call 919-962-0252

Line Classified Ad Rates table with columns for Private Party (Non-Profit) and Commercial (For-Profit).

To Place a Line Classified Ad Log onto www.dailytarheel.com/classifieds or Call 919-962-0252

Deadlines: Noon, one business day prior to publication. Display Classified Advertising: 3pm, two business days prior to publication.

Grid of classified ads including Announcements, Child Care Wanted, For Rent, Help Wanted, Sublets, and Volunteering.

Grid of classified ads including Business Opportunities, For Rent, For Sale, Help Wanted, and Personal.

Grid of classified ads including Announcements, Walk to Campus, Save a Tree, Recycle Me!, and Photography.

Grid of classified ads including Work with Carolina Performing Arts, Sublets, and Place a Classified.

UNC COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORY

Grid of community service advertisements for Lab Poster Printing, Closest Chiropractor, Don't Tase Me, Bro!!!, Over 280 Micro & Imported Beers, Everett Law Firm, Passport Photos, Robert H. Smith, Atty At Law, 35¢ Color Copies, The UPS Store, The Paint Roller, Need a FREE lawyer?, Interested in this Space?, and Starpoint Storage.