

'As You Like It' an amazing delight

By SHERYL THOMAS
Staff Writer

During intermission, one woman was heard to say, "I thought this would be boring since it's Shakespeare, but it's really pretty good." To say the least.

PlayMakers' current production, *As You Like It*, has something for everyone. For the avid Shakespeare fan, it preserves the Elizabethan costuming and lack of props. Even for the person who knows no more about Shakespeare than that he is someone they heard about in high school, PlayMakers' production is an amazing delight.

Review

The characters burst with energy, particularly Duke Frederick, Rosalind and Touchstone. Duke Frederick, played by Michael A. Connolly, has usurped the dukedom from his brother, Duke Senior (also played by Connolly), and turned the court into a hell on Earth. Duke Frederick surrounds himself with hissing, writhing and extremely interesting creatures of evil — presumably cats. The Duke himself has been overtaken and mangled by his evil, which manifests itself in his physical deformity. The Duke is crippled, confined to a wheelchair except on occasions of exceptional wrath when he heaves himself from the chair and walks, aided by two gleaming canes which he throws about in an entertainingly evil way.

Rosalind, played by Hope Alexander-Willis, brings an element of hope and happiness to this diabolic court. Although her father, Duke Senior, has been banished to the Forest of Arden, she remains cheerful. At her entrance, Rosalind carries a rose, not only as a symbol of her name but also as a symbol of her being one of the few remnants of happiness and good left at the court. Rosalind explodes with breezy energy, falling head over heels in love with Orlando, playing silly games with her cousin Celia (Kathryn Meisle) and later, in Arden, pretending to be a shepherd with all the earnestness of a woman trying to act like a man.

Touchstone, played by John Tyson, is a perfect Shakespearean fool. He constantly and disgustingly bad-mouths the court. He is the first one to leave for Arden. Yet, as with all fools, he cynically but humorously degrades life outside the court, seemingly appalled at the lack of courtly niceties in Arden. Of all the exiled characters in Arden, Touchstone is the only one who even superficially attempts to retain any courtly formalities, such as manners. Yet he too is hexed by the spell of the forest, resigning himself to the "good life."

Jaqques, played by Gregory Boyd, is appropriately melancholy, dressed all in black and nicely disheveled. He cynically eyes the others, wishing he were anywhere but cheery Arden. He eventually leaves Arden, resignedly returning to Duke Frederick.

Kathryn Meisle portrays Celia exceptionally well, giving her a character and presence that is obscure in the play's script. She complements Rosalind very well, joining her in her games and



Kathryn Meisle (top) plays Celia, and Hope Alexander-Willis plays Rosalind in 'As You Like It.'

her despair when Duke Frederick banishes Rosalind from court. Director Gregory Boyd and scenic designer Linwood Taylor, who delightfully appears as Corin, have collaborated to reveal a set and scenic elements that combine into visuals which may be even more entertaining than the script itself.

The small, black stage of the Paul Green Theatre has been transformed into a series of huge whitewashed planks that extend from the front of the stage to the ceiling, resembling a section of one of those big amusement park slides. This colorless, ominous stage is an appropriate backdrop for the diabolic world of the French court. The whiteness of the stage effectively reflects the cold, harsh light projected on these evil nobles. The whole has an air of Halloween. But there is a hidden surprise behind that stark stage, one that must be seen to be believed.

The court itself is an intriguing combination of Elizabethan costumes and jargon and contemporary machinery such as a stainless steel wheelchair and a black box that sends out invisible rays, mysteriously incapacitating its intended victim. When the "good" characters leave Arden, the uninviting stage is transformed into a welcoming sun-dappled glade, complete with moon and clouds when dusk approaches.

Because it does not strictly adhere to Elizabethan dramatic standards, staunch Shakespearean scholars and critics may find room for criticism of PlayMakers' production of *As You Like It*. But the purpose of the play is to entertain, and PlayMakers *As You Like It* definitely realizes this goal.

'Brainstorm' worth 2-year wait

By JEFF GROVE
Arts Editor

After many delays, *Brainstorm* has finally come to North Carolina, the state where most of it was filmed. Douglas Trumbull's \$18 million science fiction adventure, it may finally be learned by a trip to Raleigh's Mission Valley Cinema, is an entertaining and thought-provoking film that people will argue about endlessly.

Review

Brainstorm is set in Research Triangle Park, where scientists Michael Brace and Lillian Reynolds, played by Oscar-winners Christopher Walken and Louise Fletcher, work for a huge, faceless corporation headed by a profit-mad director (played by another Oscar-winner, Cliff Robertson). Brace and Reynolds have invented a device that records and transmits people's thoughts, emotions and experiences. The scientists view the invention as a boon for education and communication; their boss, to their dismay, sees a greater profit potential in its military use. Pressure from a military overseer drives Reynolds to a fatal heart attack in the lab late one night. Realizing that help is unavailable, she valiantly records her death experience on her machine. The rest of the film focuses on a conflict between Brace, who has an obsessive desire to play Reynolds' tape, and the military, which has taken over the project and has locked the tape in a vault.

Brainstorm's cast raises high hopes for great performances. Walken, Fletcher and Robertson won their Oscars, respectively, for *The Deer Hunter*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Charly*. Natalie Wood rounds out the cast as Walken's estranged wife, Karen. Only Fletcher, a UNC alumna, totally

lives up to expectations. One of the most gifted and versatile of actresses, she delivers a finer performance than she did in *Cuckoo's Nest*. Reynolds is a dedicated scientist and an ardent pacifist. Fletcher invests her with a credible sense of righteous indignation over Uncle Sam's intrusion into her work. She is also at the end of her rope, struggling for closeness to other people, yet she spends her evenings relaxing in the deserted lab listening to opera. Her death scene is a stunning example of how much Fletcher can communicate with her face alone — not just pain, but despair, determination and hope.

Walken delivers a performance that misses complete satisfaction because of its unevenness. He makes Brace relaxed on the surface but tormented inside by the breakup of his marriage. This is an acceptable mixture, but his actions toward his son are simply inconsistent. Still, he is interesting as a character because he notices everything — carefully but unobtrusively. Walken also fascinates with his symbolic connection to past giants of research and invention. He talks to his portrait of Albert Einstein. And surely it is no coincidence that work *Brainstorm*'s climax occurs at Kitty Hawk, allowing Brace to exclaim to a statue of Wilbur Wright, "We made it!"

Robertson is dealt the raw hand of a poorly written character (the stereotypical Uncaring Corporate Megalomaniac), yet he manages to have fun with the character.

Wood was never a great actress, but she knew how to exploit her limited resources successfully, and her part in *Brainstorm* is a good deal better than the work she did in the '70s, typified by the disaster epic *Meteor*. It is hard to imagine why MGM felt her death voided the production; there is no sense that something is missing because of her death before the film's completion. She is well-cast as a

member of the marketing and design department of her husband's corporation.

The screenplay, adapted from Bruce Joel Rubin's novel by Robert Stitzel and Philip Frank Messina, is the real stumbling block. What is the plot? If the major point is Brace's attempts to play Reynolds' tape, the plot doesn't get started until the last half of the film. Is it an examination of government intrusion into private research? If so, the characters representing the government are too one-sided to create any real tension.

Any thoughts of a muddled script, though, are lost when Trumbull, special effects man for *2001: A Space Odyssey* and director of *Silent Running*, unleashes his astonishing visual effects. Cinematographer Richard Yuricich captures these elements well, and the result is a dazzling display whenever a character dons the helmet connected to the thought-transmission device. Lillian Reynolds' death experience may disappoint some people, but it shows that Trumbull & Co. have done their homework on the subject. There is even one special effects sequence that amounts to pure comedy, much like several portions of *Silent Running* where machines are used for humorous purposes.

At the end of the film, a number of unanswered questions remain. Characters are not always as fully developed as they should be, and some disappear from the film with no explanation. Still, *Brainstorm* will have people arguing in barrooms about life and death, as well as such day-to-day concerns as whether or not Big Brother is just around the corner. *Brainstorm* was worth the two-year wait, but it won't be another *2001* or *Silent Running*.

And with flattering shots of the Research Triangle, Raleigh, Pinehurst, Kitty Hawk and Duke Chapel, it ain't a bad plug for North Carolina, either.

'The Big Chill' is realistic, emotional, satisfying

By SHERYL THOMAS
Staff Writer

Everyone wonders, with some anxiety, what he or she will be doing in 10 or 15 years, and where all the old friends will be. *The Big Chill*, written and directed by Lawrence Kasdan, is a film which gives possible answers to these questions. Kasdan terms the film a "comedy of values."

Kasdan adds *The Big Chill* to a long list of popular and successful films which he has either written or co-written: *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Continental Divide*, *The Empire Strikes Back*, *Return of the Jedi* and *Body Heat*, which marked his directorial debut.

Review

The Big Chill portrays the weekend reunion of a group of former college housemates at the funeral of Alex, the man who "brought them together." Formerly idealistic and non-conformist, they were forced to give up their ideals for "practical" careers, and are now, for the most part, members of the establishment. They have "grown up" to be a running-shoe store entrepreneur (Harold, played by Kevin Kline), a doctor (Harold's wife Sarah, played by Glenn Close), a television star (Sam, played by Tom Berenger), a journalist for *People* magazine (Michael, played by Jeff Goldblum), a lawyer (Meg, played by Mary Kay Place), the wife of a businessman (Karen, played by JoBeth Williams), and a disillusioned Vietnam veteran (Nick,

played by William Hurt). It is easy to empathize with these characters without feeling obligated to get caught up emotionally in their situations. Each tries to wear the mask of contentment, but as the weekend progresses the masks are removed, revealing their mutual disillusionment.

The experiences are very true-to-life, and college students especially will be able to understand — or at least anticipate — the feelings of the group. After all, the characters' generation was the first in which most kids went to college. This generation is the second.

But *The Big Chill* does have problems. Meg, the sole unmarried woman of the group, desperately wants a child — before it is too late. Sarah, to demonstrate her deep affection for Meg, all too casually offers Harold for stud service.

The only character who does not quite work is Chloe, played by Meg Tilly. The fault is not Tilly's acting but Kasdan's writing. Tilly plays Alex's girlfriend. She did not go to school with the group and is much younger than they are. The problem is that she is left outside the group, although superficially accepted. Everything she says is irrelevant and tasteless in the context of the situation. Finally, at the very end, she is accepted by the group and proves that she really did love Alex. But her final redemption is poor compensation — poor because the character has a lot more potential.

These problems, however, are minor in comparison with the overall quality of the film. In the main, *The Big Chill* is a realistic, emotional and ultimately satisfying film that treats the very real, ongoing problems of displacement, disillusionment and isolation.

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BLOOM COUNTY

RESEARCH: I'D LIKE YOU TO READ WHAT THEY'VE GOT UNDER "PENGUIN", PLEASE.

WHAT'S THE ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR, OPUS?

by Berke Breathed

PENGUIN: A SMALL OCEAN BIRD THAT SMELLS OF OLD WET HUSHUPPES AND WHICH HAS A NOSE THE SIZE OF MASSACHUSETTS...

ACTUALLY, I MADE THAT UP.

MY NOSE AND I AWAIT A LAVISH APOLOGY.

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CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

A pivotal meeting of the Committee for Hunger Responsibility will transpire at 4:30 p.m. at the Campus U. Please attend if you're intrigued by the Fast.

"The Role of Ion Bombardment of Surfaces in Plasma Etching" by Dr. John Coburn, IBM Research Lab, 11 a.m. in 308 Venable Hall.

Hear Professor Jacob Goldberg of the Institute for Middle East and African Studies, University of Tel Aviv, discuss "Prospects of the PLO in the aftermath of Lebanon," at 4 p.m. in 569 Hamilton Hall. Sponsored by curriculum in peace, war and defense.

The UNC Outing Club is having a gathering. If you are a climber, biker, cyclist or camper, the Outing Club is for you. Come to the Club meeting at 7 p.m. Check Union desk for room number.

There will be an important meeting of K'ers at 7 p.m. in the Union. All members and all interested come.

The UNC Model United Nations Club will meet in 351 Hamilton at 6 p.m. Be there.

Career Planning and Placement Services will conduct a workshop on Getting the Information That You Need For the Job Search at 1 p.m. in 210 Hanes Hall.

Career Planning and Placement will sponsor a seminar on Careers in the Foreign Service presented by the U.S. Foreign Service at 3:30 p.m. in 210 Hanes Hall.

The Phi-Sigma Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 300 New West.

COMING EVENTS

Association of Business Students: Mark your calendars for Oct. 13 — make your own sundae. Get to know your professors and fellow students over ice cream. Find out more details — attend the ABS general meeting on Tuesday in Carroll Hall at 3:30 p.m.

The UNC Young Democrats will briefly meet Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in Room 226 in the Union. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

The Carolina Indian Circle will have a potluck dinner on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Coffeehaus at Craige Dorm.

All interested in a competitive women's squash club, please come to an organizational meeting on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Union.

APICS: On Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in 204 New Carroll, Dr. Nancy Lee Hoyer will discuss Eaton Corp. All students interested in production/operations management are invited.

All Alpha Kappa Psi members are present at the meeting on Tuesday at 7 p.m. to pick up their doughnuts for the fund raiser and to sign up for the banquet.

UNC Riding Club will meet on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Union. Members must attend. Final details for Forum Show will be made. Any questions, call Charlotte at 933-2077.

A.B.S. will meet on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in 106 Carroll Hall. Speaker: Pat Carpenter, Career Planning and Placement. Everyone is welcome.

The UNC-CH Clogging Club and the Apple Chill Cloggers will sponsor a clogging workshop at 7:30 and a square dance at 8 p.m. on Tuesday at the Community Church on Purefoy Road. Music will be provided by the Red Rose Flyers.

The Graduate and Professional Student Federation Senate will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the Union.

Share Seminar will continue Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Baptist Student Center.

Tryouts for a play based on the parable of the laborers in the vineyard will be held at the Baptist Student Center, 203 Battle Lane at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Elections Board applications are now available in Suite C of the Union. Anyone interested can pick up an application or contact Chris Cox (957-4289) for more info. Deadline is Wednesday.

The Bloodmobile will be in the Great Hall from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Blood donors should call APD for appointments at 962-1044 or 962-3996.

Contraceptive Health Education Clinic is now meeting every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Health Education Section of the Student Health Service. Individual consultations also available by appointment. Call 966-2281, ext. 275.

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October 26, 1983

to meet with students interested in the MBA Program

Contact the Career Planning and Placement Center for more details and to sign up for an information session