

# 'Pericles' the perfect end to PRC season

**Mondy Lamb**  
**Arts Coordinator**

"Pericles," the final show in PlayMakers Repertory Company's 1990-91 season, is a stunning conclusion to a spectacular season. *Nothing* is wrong with this play — the acting is tremendous; the text, well, the text is *Shakespeare*; the costumes are lavish and the play is *wonderful*. On the rare occasions when a play is flawless, finding words that describe anything beyond the above gushing is difficult.

The play itself is a somewhat unusual choice for a repertory company to perform. The play is not one of Shakespeare's better-known works. Neither a history, a tragedy nor a comedy, the play is lost to the usual Shakespearean genres. Combining elements of all three, Pericles could best be described as a romance.

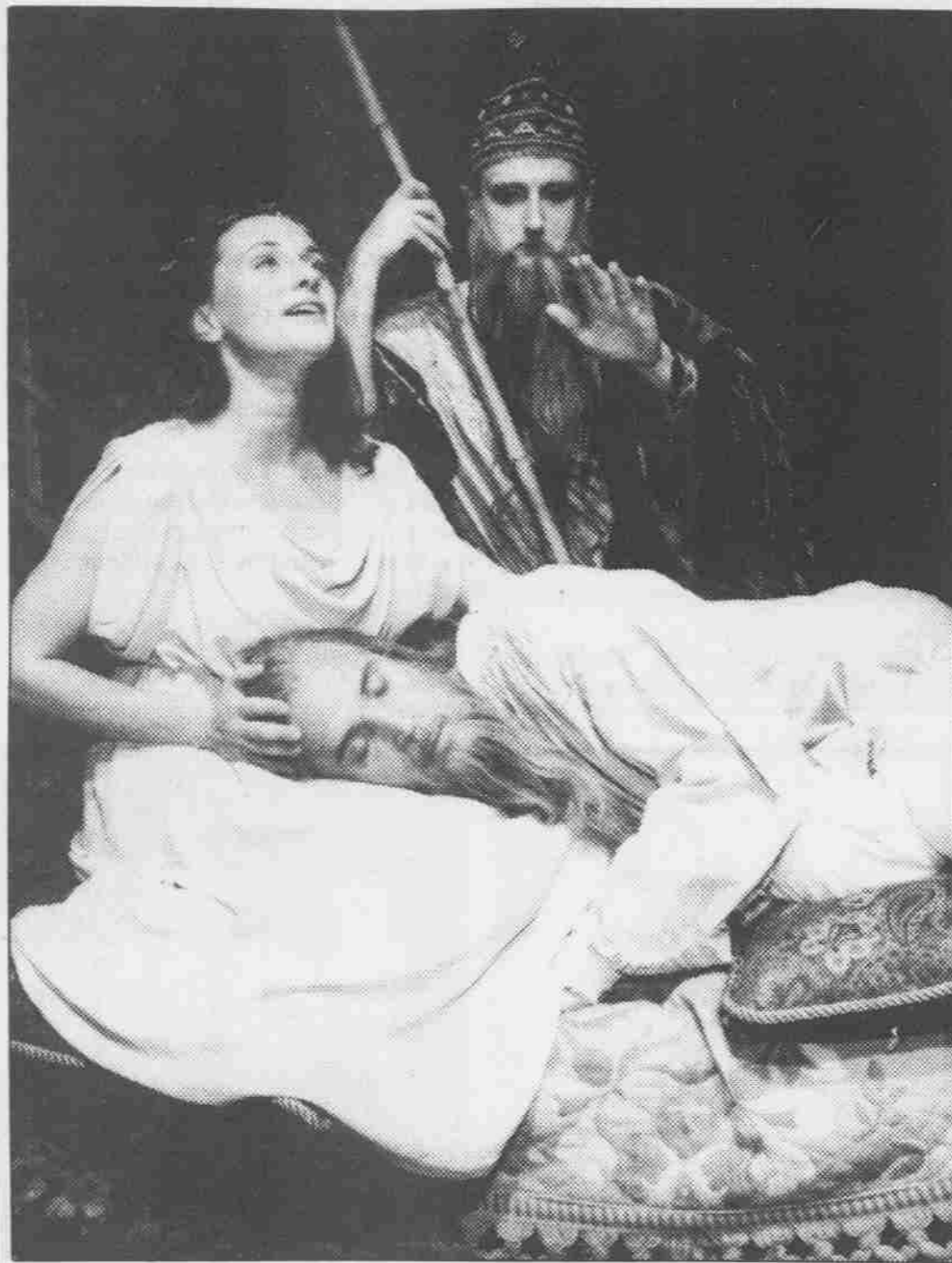
As a hero Pericles isn't absolutely loved or absolutely hated, like many of Shakespeare's characters. Although Craig Wroe's acting is impressive, Pericles isn't an incredibly *dynamic* protagonist. This choice of a play with a rather passive hero at first seems odd; however, all the other characters are strong and inspire so much feeling that his passivity doesn't detract from the play.

Pericles, Prince of Tyre, flees the land of Antioch, where he had journeyed to obtain a beautiful princess, after discovering her incestuous relationship with her father, the King. The evil King, afraid of Pericles spreading the word of his iniquity, sends an assassin

after Pericles. The prince escapes by taking to the sea. Tempest-tossed, his ship is destroyed in storms that seem to plague Pericles. Washed onto a distant shore, he falls in love, later loses his love at sea and is made to believe his daughter is dead. He hides himself away in a catatonic stupor reflecting on all the misfortunes of his life.

Meanwhile Thaisa, his wife, is out of contact on an island and Marina, his daughter, is sold into prostitution. Marina's heavenly virtue enables her to escape harm. Soon her goodness spreads to her captors, and the family is united in the end. In almost a contrived *deus ex machina*, the goddess Diana steps in and lends a hand.

In many ways "Pericles" is the story of the journey from innocence to experience, naive to adulthood. In the beginning Pericles is wide-eyed and innocent. After fleeing his homeland he discovers how unfair the world can be. After he loses his love and daughter he loses faith in the goodness of the world and is caught in an existentialist's dilemma. Circumstance has convinced him that there is no justice, meaning or reward in the world. But he remains a good character and doesn't fall to teach-



Connan Morrissey, Craig Wroe and Ray Dooley star in "Pericles"

ery. Eventually Marina's faith and Thaisa's loyalty save the family, and like the biblical, suffering Job he is rewarded with happiness in the end.

PlayMakers has manipulated Shakespeare's text in several interesting ways. The comic relief scenes are highlighted with a slapstick comedy that does credit to Shakespeare's sense of humor. The military costumes worn by the men of Antioch and Tyre are reminiscent of a modern Middle Eastern country, complete with submachine guns. The costuming as a whole was excellent and added much to the play. Marina's captors, swindling brothel owners, are clad in cheap modern attire. T-shirts, tight pants, hair spray and gaudy makeup enhance the comedic effect of the otherwise evil characters. This choice of costuming, which had the potential to be out of place and alien, is original and humorous.

Dramaturge Adam Versenyi and artistic director David Hammond said the play was about "the desire we all have

for a universal order that we can understand, that can give coherence and meaning to our lives." In the beginning so many hardships befall this pure and virtuous prince, the universe seems to be meaningless and to punish good. In the end, good is rewarded and evil is punished.

The production features three guest artists, all of whom deliver fine performances. Craig Wroe as Pericles, Ken Strong as the good King Simonides and Peter Bradbury as Cleon are all excellent. The two female leads, Thaisa and Marina, played by Eve Eaton and Connan Morrissey, are also impressive. Since there are only so many adjectives to describe how good the play is and my thesaurus is running out, I will just tell you to go see the play. You'll be glad you did.

"Pericles" will be presented at 8 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday with 2 p.m. matinees on Sunday. Performances will last through Sunday, May 12. For more information call 962-PLAY.

# Haw River Festival reminds residents of the beauty of nature

By Pia Doersam  
Staff Writer

"Did you ever try to hug a shadow?" Zuck Ralston asks the fourth graders from Rockingham County. The snowy-white hair of a 75-year-old peeks out from under his beige safari hat, but his voice has the timeless miracle of a storyteller.

He tells a tale of six men captured in a cave, and all they could see was the shadow of animals thrown on the wall of the cave by the guard's fire. One day, a man dared to escape. Overwhelmed by the beauty of the real animals and the real nature, he hugged a dogwood tree.

"Do you know where the entrance of the cave is?" Ralston asks. No answer, only 12 pairs of spellbound eyes. Ralston knocks on his head.

"The ears! The nose! The eyes!" the children shout.

To open children's eyes to the beauty of nature and the Haw River, Ralston and 19 other river-lovers came to Guilford County to celebrate the first week of the Haw River Festival.

In Forsyth County, the crew of educators and performers took a jug of spring water from the source of the Haw River on April 19. In four weeks, the jug and a crew whose members change weekly will travel the entire 100-mile length of the river by canoe.

The Haw turns from a swampy, calm stream into a broad, wild whitewater river. Farther along, treated waste water from the city of Greensboro and Burlington's textile factories mix with the river. At the end of the journey, when the Haw feeds into the Cape Fear River, the crew will pour the last drops of clear spring water out of the jar into a now-brownish, lumbering Haw.

The crew stop six times along the way to bring a "hands-on learning celebration of rivers, reptiles and recycling" to a total of 3,000 school children in the five counties the river connects.

Hands-on means grinding corn by stone, playing games Native-American children used to play or touching the skull of a beaver.

"Ooh," 10-year-old Betty squeals. She shakes her head in disgust, making her little black plaits fly, when Chris Garter at the animals station pulls the beaver's teeth out of its skull.

They are three inches long, bowed and sharp. If a beaver doesn't nibble all the time to keep his teeth short, they grow into his head and it dies, says Garter, an expert on local reptiles and a juggler from Chapel Hill.

To restore and preserve the health and beauty of the Haw River, where the beaver, the copperhead snake and even the endangered bald eagle live, the Haw River Assembly was founded in 1982.

Besides the festival, which won a "Take Pride in America" award last year, the non-profit citizen's group organizes river clean-ups, keeps track of the principle polluters of the river and sends comments to legislators on matters affecting the water quality.

With nature hikes, canoe trips and community concerts during the festival, the assembly wants to make people along the river more aware of the special place they live.

"When people really love the place where they live," Ralston says, "they think more about the choices they make and how those choices will affect their environment and community."

Kessel, a storyteller from Bynum, won the Independent Weekly's 1990 Citizen of the Year Award for organizing the first Haw River Festival.

She said volunteers were still needed. For more information on the Haw River Festival, call Kessel at (919) 542-5599.

At this year's festival finale in Bynum on May 18, everybody is invited to celebrate on the river's shores, listen to live music and learn about local crafts, solar energy and the Haw. Knowledge is important, because it's the Haw's water they drink. It's on the Haw's shores they fish and walk.

To protect their river, 400 volunteers are willing to sacrifice a day, a week or a month.

"It takes people from all parts of life to make an environmental movement work," says Sonia Mumford, a senior at UNC. "The river ties everybody together."

Mumford, a SEAC member, worked on the crew last year. There she got to know Liz Stiles, who works at the Women's Center in Chapel Hill. Seven days of camping out and eating lentils with carrots together, listening to banjos, canoeing and discovering snakes, birds and beavers together turned an acquaintance into a lasting friendship. Both have come back this year.

"Our purpose is to teach children," Mumford says. "But the team becomes like a family. Like the journey of the jug of water down the river, the crew learns about friendship."

Getting out of the routine of a Chapel Hill life is refreshing, she says.

"It is so easy for us students to get so consumed in classes, but there is a whole world out there."

taking the **NEW LSAT?**

GET FULLY PREPARED WITH THE **LEGAL PREP LSAT PREPARATION SEMINAR**

"... fun, challenging, highly effective! Clearly the best value in LSAT preparation!"

FALL SEMINARS FORMING NOW  
SUMMER HOME-STUDY PROGRAMS  
CALL 1-800-654-2385

Sponsored by Educational Preparation Services, Inc.

**FOXCROFT APARTMENTS**

**STUDENT SPECIAL**

This coupon is good for one HUGE tastefully-furnished 2 bedroom apartment, plus FREE bus passes for the 1991-1992 school year! \$650/mo.

We are also offering 2 alternative student programs which include either bus passes or a free month's rent on unfurnished 2-bedroom apartments.

PRESENT THIS COUPON BEFORE 4/30/91  
15-501 Across from Hotel Europa  
M-F 9-5:30, Sat. 11-5 929-0389

EASTERN FEDERAL THEATRES CHAPEL HILL **PLAZA 3** ALL MOVIES IN STEREO \$3.50 ALL SHOWS BEFORE 6 PM!

ELLIOTT RD. • FREE PARKING • 967-4737

7 Academy Awards!  
8:00 ONLY **DANCES WITH WOLVES** PG-13

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES II** 3:00 • 4:40 • 6:15 PG

**"A REAL THRILLER.**  
COMPELLING, FASCINATING AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY RIVETING...  
an astonishing climax that leaves you shocked and numb."  
—Rev. Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER

**mortal thoughts**

3:10 • 5:10 • 7:10 • 9:10

FROM THE CREATOR OF "FATAL ATTRACTION"  
**MATT DILLON • SEAN YOUNG**

**A KISS BEFORE DYING**

3 • 5 • 7 • 9

Live Acoustics  
Mondays at **SPANKY'S**  
with no cover

April 29 • Casual Arrogance  
May 3 • Had Matters

The Monday Special • \$1.00 Domestic

Hot New T-Shirts Have Arrived!

101 East Franklin St. • 967-2678

**UNIVERSITY**

"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR!"  
★★★★! Exhilarating!"  
—Tom Jacobs, LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

"BOLD, IRONIC AND GREAT FUN!"  
—Richard Corliss, TIME MAGAZINE

**the nasty girl** PG-13  
A PROVOCATIVE COMEDY ABOUT SECRETS AND SURPRISES. 2:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:00  
A film by MICHAEL VERHOEVEN

"FUNNY, MOVING & IRRESISTIBLE!"  
—Gary Giddens, VILLAGE VOICE

**CARMEN MAURA**

Across the battlefields of Spain, she won the heart of every man.

"SENSATIONAL!"  
—Jeffery Lyons, CBS-RADIO

"SPLENDID!"  
—Sheila Benson, LOS ANGELES TIMES

"POWERFUL!"  
—Bob Strauss, LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

**AY, CARMELA!**

EXCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT  
A FILM BY CARLOS SAURA  
2:10 • 4:10 • 7:10 • 9:10  
EAST FRANKLIN 967-8665

**Happy Birthday!**

**THE GYM is 8 years young & still growing!**

Join now or add to your current membership!

Birthday Fitness Specials!		EXPIRES 5/15/91
STUDENTS	PROFESSIONALS	
6 WEEKS	58 <sup>00</sup>	68 <sup>00</sup>
3 MONTHS	88 <sup>00</sup>	98 <sup>00</sup>
1 YEAR	248 <sup>00</sup>	258 <sup>00</sup>

Carrboro • 503 W. Main St. • 933-9249

**GANGSTER "SNAPS" PROVOLONE HAS UNTIL NOON TO BECOME AN HONEST MAN.**

**SYLVESTER STALLONE**  
IN **OSCAR**  
IN CRIME AND COMEDY, TIMING IS EVERYTHING.

**Ram Triple**  
N CNB Plaza 967-8284

Nightly 7:30 • 9:45  
Sat & Sun 2:30 • 4:30