

# LAB! Theatre play captures feelings of ex-lovers

By Anne Michaud  
Arts Coordinator

Desire is an emotion either entirely forgotten or always remembered — there are no shadows. But hints of those shadows can sometimes reappear when lovers reunite and their past relationship is analyzed from the outside.

Themes of struggle for identity and understanding of lost emotions weave through "La Musica Deuxieme," the newest production of the LAB! Theatre, directed by Tessa Blake.

The short, one-act play written by Canadian Marguerite Duras captures the intensity of a couple's rocky marriage and divorce when they meet again in a hotel in Deauville, a small resort town in Quebec. Anne-Marie Roche, played by Laurie Williams, returns to Quebec after having lived in Ontario following her divorce from Michel Nollet, played by Duncan Boothby.

They enter a room with very few setting details: a Persian rug, two Victorian love seats placed on opposite corners of the rug, a table and chair, and a

telephone off in a distant corner. The room in the hotel is sparse, yet links itself to the two characters — the two sofas are apart, yet face each other head on, like the characters must do in this final confrontation. In the middle, the open Persian rug allows for the hints of lingering love and desire that exist in their minds as a bridge from their comforting sofas, their separate lives. The play is performed in the round, and as the actors weave around the sofas, sometimes sitting together and sometimes standing far apart in opposite corners of the room, we can feel this conflict of irreconcilable desire that Anne-Marie and Michel experience.

The play opens with a discussion about who should take the furniture from the marriage. But this seemingly platonic and stale conversation evolves into an argument and nostalgic remembrance of years past. Conflicts arise as they discuss their extra-marital affairs, admitting they were "marvelous, but unnecessary." They go on to discuss how their despair was driven out by the novelties of short-lived romance.

The characters express this sense of impulsiveness as one minute they are polarized across the stage, but later, when the music plays again, (where the title "La Musica Deuxieme" originates,) they are brought together in an intensely romantic dance of conflict and desire. Duras plays with duality throughout the play in moments like this where two objects, the two characters or two sofas, are linked by one object, the music or the center of the floor.

Boothby and Williams shine in their heartfelt portrayals of Michel and Anne-Marie. They are able to juxtapose rationality, anger and dreamy romance throughout their interpretations of the characters. Williams, in particular, is able to show Anne-Marie as a woman of the '90s — strong-willed, yet torn by outside forces of relationships and internal desires of companionship and family with clarity and passion.

The tone of the play is slightly overbearing, however. The play often runs away with itself, becoming wrapped up in melodramatics to make a point of the intensity of the lost relationship. As the

arguments escalate, extensive screaming and the actors' sense of urgency are unconvincing in a nostalgic situation.

Duras' use of death imagery is quite obvious in the play, but at times it is inappropriate or trite. Anne-Marie comments on the relationship, saying "Nothing could be more over and done with — even death." Michel says, "This time we know the end is inevitable," and confesses to Anne-Marie that he almost killed her upon realizing her infidelity. But the relationship is not based upon death; Duras is trying to make a point of the irresolution of love, and the death imagery sometimes kills this thread.

Despite these few weaknesses, "La Musica Deuxieme" is a moving portrait of ex-lovers trying to deal with the idea of recapturing those first few moments in a relationship. It's worth watching the conflicts one may feel inside being brought to the outside dramatically.

"La Musica Deuxieme" will be performed Monday, Nov. 25 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 5 p.m. in the basement of Graham Memorial Hall. Admission is free.

## On-campus job recruiting January 21-24

Resume drop: Dec. 3 Open Sign-up: Jan. 15

Date	Company	Positions	Majors
1-21	Bank South Corporation	BNKG	BU/BS, ECON/BA,
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			HIST/BA,
			INDR/BA,
			INDS/BA
	Goldman Sachs & Co.	NA	NA
	Lehman Brothers	BNKG	ANY/BA/BS
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1-22	Nestle USA/Nestle Brand	NA	NA
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		BNKG	ECON/BA,
1-22	Wachovia Bank	FINN	ENGL/BA,
		GMGT	HIST/BA,
			INDR/BA
	Alex. Brown & Sons	FINN	ANY/BA/BS
1-23	Wachovia Bank	ACCT	BU/BS, ECON/BA,
		GMGT	ENGL/BA,
		MIS	INDR/BA,
	Carolina Telephone	OPER	PSYC/BA,
			SPCH/BA
	First Boston Corp.	FINN	ANY/BA/BS
	Nestle Food Service	SALE	BU/BS
1-24	Wachovia Corp.	ANAL	BU/BS, LIBA/BA
		OPER	

Additional information available in 211 Hanes Hall

### Corrections

In the Nov. 21 *Omnibus* story, "Upcoming Mammoth releases," several errors were made.

The owner of Mammoth Records is Jay Faires, and the Mammoth employee quoted is Julia-Carr Bayler. The band Nirvana is possibly, not definitely, planning to appear on Blake Babies' lead singer Juliana Hatfield's possible upcoming solo album.

Also, Mammoth band Machines of Loving Grace has not considered touring with band Nine Inch Nails, as the article implied.

The DTH regrets the errors.

### Campus Calendar

**MONDAY**  
4:29 p.m. There will be an informational session about the UNC Summer Program at Oxford University in 301 Greenlaw.  
4:30 p.m. There will be an informational session about the UNC Honors Semester at the London School of Economics in 105 Caldwell.  
7 p.m. The Rape Action Project is looking for trained peer presenters. A general interest meeting will be held in 452 Hamilton.  
Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority will sponsor a mock trial to explore the issues of risk management for Greek groups in the Zeta Tau Alpha house. Questions? Call 942-4020.  
7:30 p.m. The Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association will host a poetry/prose reading session in 226 Union.  
8:30 p.m. Fellowship of Christian Athletes will meet in the left end of Kenan Field House.  
11 p.m. WXYC FM 89.3 will play the latest LP from Tribe Called Quest, *The Low End Theory*, in its entirety.

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