

Surface & Symbol

Thursday, November 13, 1975

An Albee Festival



Photo by Perry Gaskill

Beginning Nov. 14, the University Theatre Department will present the first in a series of Albee plays which will open the 1975-76 fall season. "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," directed by Richard Lamb, graduate student of the department, will kick off the festival Friday evening, with performances continuing the 15, 19 and 20 and Dec. 1, 2, 8, and 10.

"Woolf," deemed one of Albee's greatest works, features a guest actress from Ashland, Carol Wentela, in the role of Martha. Along with Wentela, other cast members include John Descutner as George, Joseph Bassett as Nick and Karen Orendurff as Honey.

The second of the Albee plays to be presented will be "Tiny Alice," directed by Faber DeChaine.

"Tiny Alice" is considered by many to be Albee's finest. It is a metaphysical play dealing with a monk (or lay brother) who is a very pure person, and an extraordinarily wealthy woman who tries to lure him into temptation with her money and wiles. It is a strikingly

unique play that deals symbolically with each individual's temptations in life. Members of the cast are Tracy Hollenbeck as Julian, Jim Bartruff as the butler and Wayne Ballantyne as the Cardinal.

Performance dates for "Tiny Alice" are Nov. 17, 18, 21 and 22, and Dec. 3, 9 and 11.

The final two presentations of the Albee series are

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"Zoo Story" and "An American Dream," both to be directed by Frank Geltner, another Theatre Department graduate student.

These two performances replaced yet another Albee play which had been slated for the festival at the opening of the semester, "Sea Scape," which, due to script production provisions, was not available.

"Zoo Story" is about a character who, out of his own desperation and inferior sentiments, goes to Central Park and taunts innocent bystanders to the point of violence. L.G. Bedard plays Peter and Walt Jackson is Jerry.

"An American Dream" deals hilariously with how senior citizens who have been "put away" prepare themselves to die. Even though the play, itself, can be viewed as funny, the overall theme is not. The cast includes Jane Wojcik as Mommy, Carl Bengston as Daddy, Leslie Bloom as Grandma, Linda Hart as Mrs. Baker and Charles Waldrop as a Young Man.

Performance dates for "Zoo Story" and "An American Dream" are Nov. 24 and 25, and Dec. 4, 5 and 6.

Tickets for the Festival can be purchased separately or in a coupon book. For more information, call the University box office at 686-4191, 12:30-5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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