

Surface and Symbol

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New Mime Circus expands theatrical boundaries giving 'concerts of art forms'

By CHERYL RUDERT
Of the Emerald

In its four years of existence the New Mime Circus has outgrown its title like a strapping adolescent

bursting at the seams. Begun as a group devoted solely to the ancient art of pantomime, the Circus has, according to member Judith Barker, "expanded the boundaries of theater. We are constantly

exploring new styles and enlarging our repertoire. In fact, you could say we give concerts of art forms."

This kinetic power inherent in the Circus' extensive repertoire will be unleashed again starting this weekend at the Eugene Hotel. For this engagement the Circus has prepared an entirely new show consisting of two plays: Bertolt Brecht's *Elephant Calf* and Robert Anderson's *Solitaire*.

Both plays are theatrical ex-

trêmes making their own statement about oppression. *Elephant Calf* takes place in a British tavern in 19th century India. Originally written by Brecht to be performed during the intermission of his longer play *A Man's a Man*, the Circus has taken it out of the theater lobby where it was first performed and given it a more conducive setting.

Rowdy and farcical, *Elephant Calf* evolves into a play within a play, wherein the company is the audience. Full of masks and elaborate costumes the play will be accompanied by an original music score by Eric Regener.

The other play, *Solitaire*, is best described as futuristic. With a collage of sounds ranging from jazz to electronic tape and recorded by Ron Aday and Judith Barker, the

play explores the relationship between the System—a computerized society—and an individual.

The company becomes in *Solitaire* a support group for the play. "They weave a sort of fabric of movement around the individual," says Barker. "The costumes, designed by Barbara Embree, are quite fantastic in this play."

The six performances of these plays will be held in the King Cole Room of the Eugene Hotel, Jan. 21 through 23 and 28 through 30. Actor's warm-ups begin at 8 p.m. and curtain time is 8:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$3 in advance, \$3.50 at the door and \$2 for senior citizens, and are available at the Sun Shop and at the Eugene Hotel.



Photo by W.D. Thornton, Silver Fox Studio