

PHOTO DEVELOPING

12 exp\$2.89
20 exp\$3.99
36 exp\$6.25

Everyday
Prices

KINKO'S

344-7894

1128-B ALDER STREET

2nd floor Atrium
485-1063

Ionesco says 'modern life absurd'

By ANAMARIA BELL
Of the Emerald

Eugene Ionesco, universally acclaimed as one of the leading exponents of the Theatre of the Absurd, expounded his theories in a panel discussion Wednesday at the University. His appearance was supplemented by an exclusive presentation of his film "La Vase," which was shown at Eugene's Waco Cinema.

Wednesday night he attended a performance of his own play, Macbett, put on by the NewMime circus. He also met with Romance Language faculty and graduate students.

The Theatre of the Absurd, an early 20th century theatrical movement, exemplified the breaking away from conventional and logical representations as well as alienation from the environment and the world.

Throughout his works Ionesco philosophizes that human language, effort and existence are

essentially absurd and insignificant.

He believes persons are forced to say and to do things because of "dominant idealities." He uses the people of Russia and China to exemplify this, saying although they no longer believe in certain principles ordained by the state, they are still conditioned to operate according to what it dictates.

Ionesco achieves a frightening and nightmarish air in many of his plays, using nonsense to reveal the vacuous lives of his mechanical characters and using meaningless physical objects as central themes. Examples of this are plays which he wrote in 1951-5, including "The Future is in Eggs," "The Chairs" and "Victims of Duty," in which coffee cups are his main theme.

His plays are of a comical and farcical nature. They serve to counterpoint the true central anguish of the human condition and its ever-present awareness of death. Ionesco attacks externalities, condemns society and interprets the entire world of reality as a sinking phenomenon.

An example of this is his famed "Rhinoceros," a story which deals with Berenger, a naive man of good will and average middle class. The story, told in three acts, opens up to a sidewalk cafe scene in which Jean, Berenger's friend, is telling him he needs a haircut.

All of a sudden news is spread that a rhinoceros is running loose in town. Gradually, all the inhabitants of the town turn into rhinoceroses, except Berenger and his sweetheart, Daisy. They decide to marry and regenerate the human race. However, Daisy, wondering if they are the abnormal ones, turns into a rhinoceros also.

Berenger is confused, wondering whether he should change also, but he realizes it is too late. So he puts up a fight to the end.

When asked what led him to write "Rhinoceros," Ionesco re-



Eugene Ionesco

Photo by Erich Boekeheide

plied, "It was my own personal experience of loneliness during the war, seeing all my French friends becoming extreme right wing; the way today all my intellectual friends are left wing."

"I felt at various moments that maybe I should be like that, but of course, I couldn't."

Ionesco said, "Rhinoceros first began as a play which dealt with the issue of Nazi occupation and propaganda. However, years later it became universally interpreted as symbolizing a anti-totalitarian force and the terror of conformism." He acknowledges that the little man who wishes to remain an individual is usually condemned.

Ionesco believes man is ambiguous and is alienated from a world which can offer no permanent solution to any one desire or

man's total complex of desires. When asked why he believes man is without a future, Ionesco replied, "Very few people have a reason for existing and do not know why they are here. We no longer have religion or philosophy. Without these concepts, man is lost."

Ionesco said of what led him into the movement of the Absurd: "At first I wanted to do a parody of the fashionable French theatre (theatre of the Boulevard). The parody turned out to be a real play and was successful."

"This fashionable French theatre appeared to me to be very conventional. In creating the parody, I discovered I was repudiating the nonsense and absurdity of modern life."

Ionesco was born in Slatina, Romania, although he has spent most of his life in France. He attended school in France and Romania before going to the University of Bucharest. He spent the years of WWII working various jobs in Paris, one of which involved proofreading in a publishing house.

Student drowns in bathtub

A University anthropology major was found dead in his Springfield apartment Wednesday evening. According to Springfield Police, the student apparently drowned in the bathtub after suffering an epileptic seizure while bathing.

David Jim Maydeck, 22, of 460 Lindale St., Springfield, was found in his apartment at 7:55 by the apartment's manager who was checking another tenant's report that water had been running in the apartment all day, police said.

Maydeck, originally from Van Nuys, Calif., was a senior majoring in anthropology.

Police said Thursday Maydeck's body was being returned to Van Nuys where funeral arrangements were made for later this week.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR USED BOOKS?

many of them are bought and taken by out-of-state book buyers during finals week.

RECYCLE THEM LOCALLY SELL THEM
FOR GOOD PRICES AT THE SMITH
FAMILY BOOKSTORE

SAVE UP TO 50% BEFORE YOU BUY
YOUR BOOKS NEW — CHECK OUR
QUALITY USED BOOK SUPPLY

The Smith Family Bookstore

768 E. 13th — 345-1651

Keep our books on Campus

