

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Robinson returns to direct 'Cherry Orchard'

By Sarah Kitchen

Of the Emerald

Horace Robinson, the namesake of the University's Robinson Theatre, has returned to direct Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard." The play opens in the Robinson Theatre tonight.

Robinson, theater arts pro-

fessor emeritus, was a University faculty member from 1933 to 1975, when he retired with distinction. The theater was named after him in 1976.

The play is an example of classic Russian literature and represents the belated renaissance that took place in Russia during the late 19th cen-

tury, Robinson said.

"I would say that it is more of a kind of a period 'soap opera' because it has the basic events that surround one particular family in Russia who are having various difficulties," he said.

The difficulties center on the family's attempts to save its cherry orchard, which is to be sold at a public auction to pay debts.

The play begins with the arrival of Madame Ranevskaya (played by Corrine Johnson) from Paris and concludes four months later. Ranevskaya's children, who own the cherry orchard, ask her to prevent the sale.

"The Cherry Orchard" examines the relationships between members of the family as well as relationships with people outside the family, Robinson said.

Chekhov intended "The Cherry Orchard" to be a comical play, Robinson said, but through the years it was changed into a tragedy.

In this version, Robinson decided to return the play to its original intent — a four-act comedy, he said.

"Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, the first productions of this play were done by the Moscow Art Theatre who turned the play into a tragedy, a pattern that was followed by others. So it has been considered all through its history to be an example of a Russian tragedy," Robinson said.

Although originally intended to be a comedy, it has never been considered a farce, Robinson said.



Photo by Maria Corvallis

Trofimov (Cole Hornaday) and Madame Ranevskaya (Corrine Johnson) talk together while her daughters, Anya (Susan Page) and Varya (Karen Gloege) look on.

"It was written as a play which looks at life affirmatively and at the characters in the play as peculiar and unique people," he said.

The cast includes Karen Gloege as Varya, one of Madame Ranevskaya's daughters, and Susan Page as Anya, the other daughter.

Stefan Forberg plays Gayev, the sisters' uncle, and Donald Naggier plays Lopakhin, a family friend asked for help. Wade Johnson plays Epihodov, one of the employees on the estate.

The University theater department has performed "The Cherry Orchard" once before — 20 years ago in an arena production, Robinson said.

The play will continue Saturday, and March 5-7 and 13-14. Curtain time is 8 p.m. for all productions.

Tickets are \$5.50 for the general public, \$4.50 for senior citizens and students and \$3.50 for University students. All seats are reserved.

'Wonderful' is stereotypical but enjoyable

With the overwhelming commercial success of the movies "Sixteen Candles," "The Breakfast Club," "Pretty in Pink" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" to his credit, writer/director/producer John Hughes

gradually has carved out a niche for himself at the top of the teen-

age film market.

In his latest movie, "Some Kind of Wonderful," which opens tonight, Hughes has successfully continued his tradition of combining heartfelt emotions with the elements of teenage politics.

Starring in the leading role is Eric Stoltz, who co-starred with Cher in the movie "Mask." He plays Keith Nelson, a likable but somewhat outcast high school student working part time as a gas station attendant.

Keith is also a dreamer harboring visions of grandeur toward the high school's most popular girl, Amanda Jones, played by Lea Thompson ("Howard The Duck").

But Keith faces two major obstacles to his ambitions.

First, although Amanda's relationship with her big-man-on-campus boyfriend, Hardy Jennis (Craig Sheffer), is on the rocks, he still wants her around, even if only as a possession.

The other problem is with Keith's best friend, a female and secret admirer named Watts (Mary Stuart Masterson). Although she keeps her feelings for Keith inside at first, as Keith

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