

# □ VISUAL ARTS

## Bijou expands with second screen



Photo by Bobbie Lo

Owner Michael Lamonte shows off the new addition to the Bijou Theatre, which was completed in late August.

By Carolyn Lamberson

When Michael Lamonte opened the Bijou Theatre on

Oct. 15, 1980, he found it advantageous to be located near the University because of its built-in audience for the films he wanted to show.

And now, after a couple of

struggling years, the increasing popularity of small film theatres like the Bijou has encouraged Lamonte to expand. The addition of a second screen at the Bijou's 13th Avenue location will allow him to show two additional shows and give the audience a choice of films, he said.

The second screen, which seats 94 as compared to 120 in the older auditorium, opened Aug. 21 and reception has been "fabulous," he said. Although late summer between the University's summer and fall terms is not exactly the best time to expect huge crowds, he added.

"It gives me the opportunity to work out any bugs that still may exist" before a majority of the University's population returns this month, Lamonte said.

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give three men as much chance to develop internal characterizations.

"The three roles are very balanced and require an incredible range of emotions," he said. "I think it's a play that will have a very wide appeal because it has a lot to do with how men bond in our society, like father-son and brother-brother relationships."

There are seven performances of "Orphans," October 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24. The final show date includes both a matinee and an evening performance.

The second production, which opens December 3, is "Noises Off," written by Michael Frayn and directed by Dr. Jack Watson. This farce is a play within a play, which McKernie said is "probably the funniest play I've seen in ten years." The audience views the backstage of a play and its actors' hilarious interludes and assorted antics. Watson, who directed "Gypsy" last spring, is on a one-year faculty appointment by the theater department.

The UT presents "Dance '88" and the famous Sophocles play, "Antigone," during winter term. In "Dance '88," the University's Department of Dance entertains with a variety of styles ranging from tap to modern to ballet.

"Antigone," which McKernie directs as well, is about the daughter of the shamed Theban king Oedipus Rex, who loses her two brothers in a war against each other and must decide which one will receive proper burial. This emotional powerhouse features costumes and design concepts inspired by McKernie's recent research at the British Museum in London.

Spring term at the UT begins with "The Miss Firecracker Contest," written by Beth Henley, author of "Crimes Of The Heart." Henley's play takes place in a small Mississippi town and pokes fun at a small-scale beauty pageant. This zany show, directed by Annie McGregor, focuses on one contestant's drive to become Miss Firecracker and the problems that arise when her cousin, a

former winner, arrives unexpectedly. McGregor is a graduate student in theater arts.

"Love's Labours Lost," directed by Dr. Robert Barton, is the final show of the UT season. This Shakespeare comedy consists of unique and stylized puns, word games, witticisms and an unconventional ending that's full of humor and charm. Barton is an associate professor in the speech department with extensive experience in directing Shakespeare plays.

McKernie calls this year's UT schedule "a wonderful range and incredible mixture of shows." He said this season provides a great introduction for anyone who might be new to live theater.

Tickets are available on a season and individual basis for the Robinson Theater productions. For more information, contact the Robinson Theater box office adjacent to Villard Hall after Sept. 28.

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