

Theatre season begins Friday with *Burn This*

Play by Lanford Wilson about life, love

By Ming Rodrigues
Emerald Reporter

The intrigues of life, love and relationships set the mood for *Burn This*, a contemporary drama set in New York City opening the University Theatre's second season at the Robinson Theatre this Friday.

"The key to this play is passion," said director Andrew Longoria, a University theater arts graduate student. "You are not always able to decide who to love even when you know who you should love."

A recent play by Pulitzer Prize winning American playwright Lanford Wilson, *Burn This* deals with passion in relationships. The plot revolves around four people (one woman and three men) in New York City coming to grips with the death of a mutual friend. In the process, their lives are irrevocably entwined.

The woman, Anna, has a passionless romance with one man, Burton. She is deeply shaken by the appearance of Pale, the mysterious brother of the deceased who arrives to settle his sibling's affairs.

Lanford Wilson's other plays include *Fifth of July* and *Pally's Follies*, a Pulitzer Prize-winning play.

"Each of the plays I have directed at the University were selected in order to present me with a specific directing challenge, and this is also true of *Burn This*," said Longoria, who directed *Ghost on Fire* and *Alice in Wonderland* for the University Theatre.

"The play deals with physical passion that's rarely dealt with in drama," he said. "Getting a group of undergraduates to act intimate with one another is a delicate thing."

Burn This is Longoria's first production in the Robinson Theatre. For the first time in three years, a University student is directing a play at the theater.

In addition, *Burn This* will play in repertory with Richard Green's *Eastern Standard*, another contemporary play set in New York City to open next week.

The performance starts at 8 p.m. Additional performances will be on Oct. 27; Nov. 9, 10, 15 and 30; and Dec. 1. Curtain



Photo by Sean Poston

Timi Prulhiere and Brad Goodman star in the University Theatre production of *Burn This*, opening Friday at Robinson Theatre.

time for all performances is 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$6.50 for the general public and \$4.50 for stu-

dents and senior citizens. All seats are reserved. Tickets are available at the Robinson Theatre Box Office from 12:30

to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. on performance nights, or by calling 346-4191.

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