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ARTS

Yuppie play offers 1930s humor

By Ming Rodrigues
Encore Reporter

University Theatre continues its mainstage season with a witty, romantic, yuppie comedy opening this Friday in Robinson Theatre.

Playwright Richard Greenberg's *Eastern Standard*, set in New York City, mixes and matches couples and classes in a comic summary of the 1980s but is similar to the comedies of the 1930s and 1940s.

Greenberg is a drama graduate from Yale and last year his play *Eastern Standard* was the first of his four plays to go to Broadway.

"I believe *Eastern Standard* is more than an apology for yuppie lifestyles," said director John Schmor, a graduate student in theatre arts.

"It is a play about slightly damaged people trying to make a better life, one with social responsibility and commitment to those they love. It's about four people who are nearing thirty and finally learning to grow up."

The characters include a Wall Street broker

whose lover is in jail for insider trading, a television producer learning to live with AIDS, an architect who hates his work, a Soho artist and a waitress-would-be-actress.

Schmor pointed out that the play's appeal particularly lies in the honest portrayal of its two gay characters, the television producer and the Soho artist, who are lovers and whose sexuality is not an issue in the play.

"There is no painful stereotyping in this play and that's important," Schmor said.

Eastern Standard plays in repertory with Lanford Wilson's *Burn This*, another contemporary play about life and love which opened last Friday.

Tickets are \$6.50 for the general public and \$4.50 for students and senior citizens. All seats are reserved. Tickets can be picked up at the Robinson Theatre box office from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. on performance nights, or by calling 346-4191.

Additional performances are set for Nov 3, 8, 16, 17 and 29. All performances start at 8 p.m.

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