

# Classics, originals make up Robinson Theatre season

By Pollyanne Power  
Emerald Contributor

The plays at the University's Robinson Theatre promise to make audiences laugh, cry and gasp this year with one of the most diverse seasons the theatre has ever had.

More than half the student body is expected to attend performances this season, and thousands of students will be involved in every aspect of production and performance.

"The identity of the Robinson Theatre within the community is that of a classical theater," said Robert Barton, associate professor and Robinson Theatre director.

"We have a great commitment to known classics and potential classics," Barton said. "We stay away from pure diversion and stick to the great ones. This way we challenge the students and bring out the greatness in them."

"I think one of the things that makes Robinson Theatre special is the breadth of theater," said William Warren, University Theater business manager. "We will be producing Shakespearean classics as well as 20th Century pieces, an original, and dance and musical programs."

The season opens with a revival of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. This performance capped last year's season and is being brought back because of its popularity. The play is directed by Barton, who has extensive experience acting, directing, and studying Shakespeare.

*As You Like It* is a romantic comedy. It is typical of Shakespearean comedy in its use of disguise and deception and the descent into chaos and hilarity. It is unusual, however, because it depicts a strong aggressive woman who chooses the man she wants and sets out to mould and educate him. She does all this while disguised as a man, giving the role reversal a further twist.

The Robinson Theatre Production of *As You Like It* will not use typical Elizabethan costuming and scenery. The costuming was designed not to be suggestive of an era, thus accentuating the timelessness of the comedy. The scenery is created with projections and screens, allowing the company to be more visually spectacular and more easily changeable than if the scenery were made with heavy painted sets.

"The production of *As You Like It* is set in no-time, and no-place," Barton said. "The setting is contemporary, yet unspecified."

The second production of the season will be the classic *Equus*. This intense drama pits the intellect of a psychiatrist against the passion of a young man who has blinded six horses. Written by Peter Shaffer and directed here by Jack Watson, this play represents a number of special challenges to the Robinson Theatre production company.

Grant McKernie, Theatre Arts department head, will play Dysart, the psychiatrist. Watson was a pupil under McKernie here at the University.

"*Equus* will be challenging for (Watson and McKernie)," Warren said. "This spin on their teacher/pupil relationship should prove to be very worthwhile, positive and rewarding. A challenge also lies with the students who will be performing with their department head. It is a wonderful opportunity for them, and a wonderful opportunity for us to see this great work with this caliber of performers."

## ROBINSON THEATRE 1992-93 SEASON

As You Like It

Oct. 1-3

Equus

November 6,7,12-14,19-21

Wings On Your Heels

January 15,16,21-23

On The Verge

February 19,20,25-27

March 5,6

Chimera

April 22-24,30, May 1

King Lear

May 21,22,27-29, June 4,5

General Admission \$8, Students/Seniors \$4.50;

Season Tickets: General \$30, Students/Seniors \$18.

Season Tickets available September 26-October 3.

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Graphic by Jeff Paslay

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The production of *Equus* includes intense emotional moments as well as physical nudity and is not recommended for young children.

The next production is presented by the Dance Department of the School of Music, which appears yearly at the Robinson Theatre with a program of modern, rhythmic and contemporary dance performed by the top students of the Dance Department.

Following the dance production is an original piece called *On The Verge*. It was written by Eric Overmeyer and is the tale of three women of the Victorian era who pass through time and find themselves in contemporary times.

*On The Verge* is a situation comedy with a feminist approach. The play, directed by Amy Sarno, plays on the frustration and shock of the Victorian ladies who had hitherto considered themselves very modern and open-minded. To their intense consternation, and our amusement, they find that they now embody the fussy conservative element that they used to criticize. Thoughtful and light, this play promises to promote much discussion.

*Chimera* will be a glorious and extravagant production that combines a variety of musical and dance talents. The School of Music is using many resources to bring the culture and mystique of Bali and Indonesia to the stage. The dance will be arranged Janet Descutner, associate professor and head of the Dance Department

Jerry Williams, a theatre arts professor who is currently touring Bali, will be responsible for the luxuriant scenic designs. Robert Kyr, associate professor of music, will bring the Pacific Rim Gamelon Orchestra to the stage. The Gamelon Or-

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ON THE VERGE  
CHIMERA - KING LEAR  
and in  
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