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THEATER

'Our Country' explores art in society

By Andrew Mayer
 Freelance Reporter

The Robinson Theatre's winter season opens at 8:00 p.m. on Jan. 26th with Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*. The story, set in a British penal colony in 1789 Australia, explores the place of arts in society.

The focus on the arts is what attracted graduate student and director Michael Phillips to the play.

"This play, more than any other I've read, says exactly what I think about theater and about all art — that an artistic consciousness is meaningful in society," Phillips said. "That people can be changed and made better because of it."

"In a time when the government is trying to cut funding to the arts — for example," he said. "The attacks on the National Endowment for the Arts and attempts to take away funding for public broadcasting — this play makes an excellent case for the importance of arts in a society."

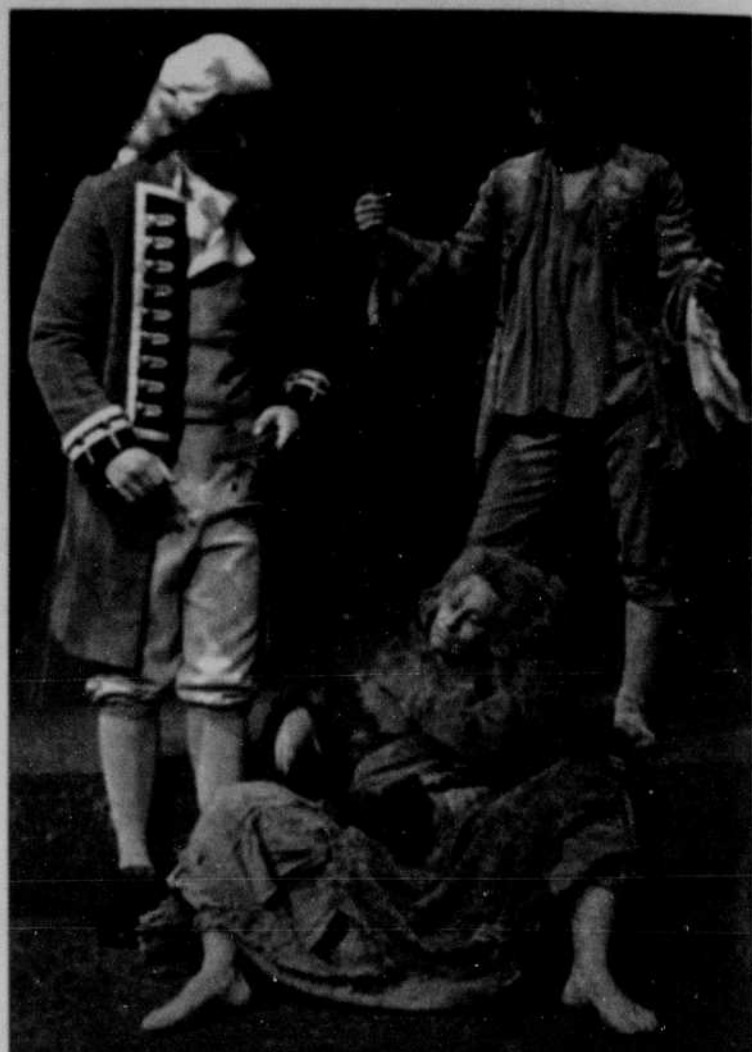
Justin Davanzo plays two roles. One, named Sidewalk, is his favorite of the two. Davanzo said his character is special.

"The character is full of the energy and excitement I have for acting," Davanzo said. "The character maintains a constant strength for living and surviving under the terrible conditions that exist in a penal colony of the time of the play."

Lisa Lewis plays the character named Duckling. For Lewis, Duckling is representative of what people keep inside themselves.

"Duckling is the silent voice in this world and she holds back from expressing herself for fear of being hurt," Lewis said. "She wants to love and be loved but has lived her life as a whore, a thief, a despised prisoner; she knows no less."

The cast is Michael J. Geissinger as Ketch and Jemmy Campbell; Lisa Lewis as Duckling and Watkin Tench; Gillian W. Bentley as Liz and William Faddy; Mark J. Hayes as Wisehammer and Rev. Johnson; Marty Doyle as Aborigine, Black Caesar and George Johnston; Megan P. Smith as Dabby and Arthur Phillip; Trisha Will as



Looking for an actress, Ralph Clark (John Sanders), left, asks Meg Long (Trisha Will), bottom, to be in a play while Sidewalk (Justin D. Davanzo), right, looks on. The play starts January 26 at 8:00pm.

THEATER PREVIEW

Our Country's Good
 Robinson Theatre

Written by: Timberlake Wertenbaker
 Playing until Feb. 10

Meg and Robbie Ross; Christopher H. Curtis as Arscott and Harry Brewer; Sara C. Martyn as Mary and Will Dawes; John Sanders as Ralph; and Justin Davanzo as Sidewalk and David Collins.

The production crew is Trudi M. S. Tomaschewski, Assistant Director; Angie Lowe, Dramaturg; T. Coyote Days, Stage Manager; Paul Dustund, sets; Carey B. Hanson, Rabiah Tron-

celliti and Rebecca Utz, costumes; Janet Rose, lighting; and Ryan Webber, sound.

Our Country's Good continues Jan. 27th, Feb. 1-3 and 9-10. Tickets are \$8 for the general public; \$6 for senior citizens and University faculty and staff. Tickets are \$4.50 for University students.

A benefit performance will be given at 2 p.m. on Sunday Feb. 4, with all proceeds going to Lane County Head Start. Tickets for the benefit are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. They can be purchased through the Robinson box office.

The Robinson Theatre is located at Villard Hall, 1109 Old Campus Lane. For more information, contact the box office at 346-4191.



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if you cringe at normalcy	O
if you are suspicious of	X
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if you always picked your	4
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if you think art should f-k	8
if narrow vision makes you	4
dizzy	4
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