



# DRAMA BEAT

JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY DRAMA VOL. IX NO. 2 SPRING 1996

## *A Higher Place in Heaven*

May will find the Drama Department preparing for the 8th annual Southern Playwright's Competition winning production, **A HIGHER PLACE IN HEAVEN**. This play, written by Pamela Parker, was the winner of 1995's competition and will be produced by the Center for Southern Studies and the JSU Drama Department.

**A HIGHER PLACE IN HEAVEN** is a gentle, loving play that takes place on the front porch of an old mansion in South Georgia in 1925. The action of the play centers around two elderly women—one white, one black—and those around them as they deal with the changing times and learn that things don't always have to be the way that they seem—or "have always been."

Auditions were held on April 9th. The cast chosen at that time includes: Kathy Douglas, Phyllis Densmore, David Downs, Ashley Pendley, Nick Romano, and Cher Bernard.

Production dates are May 23, 24, and 25 at 8:00 P.M. and May 26th at 2:00 P.M. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for Adults; \$4.00 for JSU faculty/staff and senior citizens; and \$3.00 for students, military, and children. **PAID RESERVATIONS ARE PREFERRED.** Call 782-5648 for reservations.

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*Oleanna*

May 3-4 - 8:00 P.M. - Second Stage Theatre

This play by David Mamet is a thought provoking and emotional play dealing with a teacher, a student, and allegations of sexual harassment. This is a very timely play in our "politically correct" society.

Tickets for this Second Stage production are \$1.00 each. All proceeds will be applied to the scholarship fund.

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**AUDITIONS**

### **SOME AMERICANS ABROAD**

May 14-15 at 7:30 P.M. in Room 338 Stone Center

Roles available for 6 men and 5 women

## *TASTE OF THE TOWN 1996*

JSU's Taste of the Town summer season is back with a terrific line-up for its ninth summer. This year's plays include two comedy dinner offerings and an audience participation musical for children.

The season begins with Bernard Slade's **ROMANTIC COMEDY** which will run July 11-13 and 18-20 (buffet at 6:45/show at 8:00) and July 14 (buffet at 12:45/show at 2:00). \$19.50 single; \$16.50 groups of 24+. The buffet, by Marriott, Inc., will include assorted salads, carved roast beef, chicken scalloppini, lasagna or spaghetti, assorted vegetables, fudge cake and New York style cheesecake with toppings.

**ROMANTIC COMEDY** centers around Jason Carmichael who is about to have two momentous events occur in his life—he is about to marry a society belle and his writing partner is retiring. Enter Pheobe Craddock, a mousy, drab Vermont schoolteacher and collaborator-to-be. From that moment on Jason's life is never the same.

Our second dinner theatre offering runs July 25-27 and August 1-3 (buffet at 6:45/show at 8:00) and July 28 (buffet at 12:45/show at 2:00). \$19.50 single; \$16.50 groups of 24+. The buffet, by Marriott, Inc., will include assorted salads, carved roast pork loin, lemon chicken, seafood Newburg or stuffed shells, assorted vegetables, banana cake, and New York style cheesecake with toppings.

The play for this run will be the comedy by Herb Gardner, **A THOUSAND CLOWNS**. Murray is left to rear his precocious nephew, Nick. However, Murray, who has been a writer for a children's comedy show, now finds himself without a job and finds himself with too much time on his hands. As it happens, Social Services doesn't believe this is the best environment for a young boy, so out come the social workers. Join us as we discover what Murray, the cheerful non-conformist, is willing to do to keep his family together.

Paid reservations are required and may be purchased via phone, 205-782-5648 or by mail, JSU Taste of the Town, 339 Stone Center, Jacksonville, AL 36265. Group reservations and payment must be received by June 29.

1996's children's theatre production is the delightful audience participation musical **LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD** adapted for the stage by 1986 Drama Honors graduate, Eric Traynor. Mr. Traynor, who is the Producer/Artistic Director

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of the Old Greensborough Storybook Theatre in North Carolina, will be here to direct his slightly unconventional version of the classic children's story. Come, join us for a rollicking good time as we, like "Red", discover why we "Don't Go Into Those Woods." Production dates are July 15-20 and 22-26 at 1 P.M. daily. Tickets are \$5.00. Tickets for groups of 24+ are \$4.00.

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## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to drama major, Todd Edwards who has been accepted to and has received an assistantship to the University of Southern Mississippi's M.F.A. design program.

Congratulations to Mishia Edwards who has been accepted to the M.F.A. program in acting at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Best wishes to Neil Jones who auditioned March 29-30 for the M.F.A. in Musical Theatre program at San Diego State University in California. We hope that Neil hears good news by the end of May.

Congratulations to Deborah Johnson, drama major and JSU drama costume assistant who won 1st place at the Southeastern Theatre Conference design competition in Louisville, Kentucky during March.

JSU drama graduate (1995) Gregory Mikell is now studying at the National Shakespeare Academy in New York City.

The following drama students have been hired for summer employment at the following theatre companies: Utah Shakespeare Company - Rene Humphrey, Randy Blades, and Frank Soukey; Magnum of Atlanta, who will be doing special events lighting for the Olympics - Chris Collins; Tecumsah - Shawn Carder; Patchwork Players, Lexington, SC - Michel Holland

Congratulations to Tracey Gamble, (DR 1995) who was offered a full one year scholarship to the Lee Strasberg School in New York City.

Drama graduate, Tina Seals (1991), will be directing "Turpentine Wine" in Destin, Florida this summer.

Drama major, Chris Mays, will be working for Magic Kingdom Entertainment at Disney World this summer.

The drama department is pleased to have been able to offer scholarships to the following incoming freshmen and transfer students: **Natalie Hill, Jessica Duke, Brian Tidwell, Casey Browning, Jason White, Patrick Weaver, Jason Bozeman, Amanda Thornton, Nick Caruso, Michelle Schenck, Andrew Covington, Laura McCray,**

**Creed Bowlen, Steven Sykes, Kelley Cantrell, Simon Holland, Gabe Weaver, Philip Wentz, Jason Shaffer, Steven Mullis, and Payton Hillyer.** The department is anxiously awaiting their acceptance letters. (Highlighted names have accepted awards).

Auditions for matriculating JSU students and additional incoming freshmen/transfer students were held on April 11 and 23. The following students were awarded scholarships: Paula Pierce, Kristi Reaves, Rike Rosser, Kelly Ormond, Ryan Russell, Chris Collins, Randy Blades, Rene Humphrey, Jason St. John, Shawn Carder, Lesley Gray, Doug Millington, Ashley Pendley, Deborah Johnson, Jessica Geron, David Downs, Nick Romano, and Renee Howard.

JSU Drama students hired for Taste of the Town Summer Theatre include: Jason St. John, David Downs, Allison Graydon, Jessica Geron, Ashley Pendley, Lesley Gray, Kimberly Kinsey, Mishia Edwards, Debbie Johnson, Todd Edwards, and Matthew Crouse

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## ODDITIES WANTED

The drama department is always interested in the odd, unique, or rare items that you may consider junk. For instance, that old, worn-out pair of loafers from the 50's; that old costume jewelry that just doesn't match your style anymore; or even those old military uniforms or dresses from the 40's that don't quite fit the way they once did. We even accept the unique pieces of furniture that no longer meet your needs. If you are in doubt about what might be acceptable, call 782-5647 (the costume shop) or 782-5623 (the drama office) for more information.

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## DONATIONS NEEDED

As you can probably tell by the number of scholarships awarded, our coffers are again dry. Donations to any of our scholarships funds are welcome. Checks may be made to the JSU Foundation and designated for the Janet LeFevre Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Gene Ericson Memorial Scholarship Fund, or to the Theatre Angel Fund. All scholarship donations are 100% tax deductible.

## ... SPEAKING OF DONATIONS

Again, we send the plea. Our house light system is desperately in need of an upgrade. This system, which is separate from the stage light system, involves the auditorium lights; and if you've been in the theatre lately, you've probably noticed that they have begun to "pulse". Another item that is fast approaching major repair or replacement is our sound board. So, any contribution you can make will be welcomed and will be 100% tax deductible.

# COMING SOON

## *Oleanna*

May 3 & 4 - 8:00 P.M. - Second Stage Stone Center

## *A Higher Place in Heaven*

a new drama by Pamela Parker - May 23-26

WINNER 1995 SOUTHERN PLAYWRIGHT'S COMPETITION

## **SOME AMERICANS ABROAD**

a comedy by Richard Nelson - June 20-24

## 1996-97 JSU THEATRE SEASON

### *Bus Stop*

October 10-14, 1995

### *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

November 19-24

### **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**

February 13-16 and 20-23

### *The 6th Annual Alpha Psi Omega Scholarship Production*

(to be announced)

Part of KALEIDOSCOPE festival of the fine arts  
March 13-17

### Winner 1996 Southern Playwrights Competition Play

(to be announced)

May 22-25

### *Design for Living*

June 19-23

SEASON TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR  
PURCHASE BEGINNING JUNE 1

DISCOUNTS FOR SEASON PURCHASERS WILL BE  
GOOD THROUGH OCTOBER 1

CALL 782-5648 FOR FURTHER  
INFORMATION

# JSU THEATRE FACULTY & STAFF

CARLTON WARD, CHAIRMAN  
339 STONE CENTER - 782-5447

WAYNE CLAEREN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
340 STONE CENTER - 782-5489

FREDDY CLEMENTS, COSTUME DESIGNER  
237 STONE CENTER - 782-5647

DAVID KEEFER, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
238 STONE CENTER - 782-5647

SUSAN MCCAIN, INSTRUCTOR  
341 STONE CENTER - 782-5635

JOYCE TATE, COSTUME SHOP MANAGER  
237 STONE CENTER - 782-5647

JAN RHODES, SECRETARY/BOX OFFICE  
342 STONE CENTER - 782-5623

THEATRE BOX OFFICE  
343 STONE CENTER - 782-5648

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## Drama Recruiter Racking up the Miles

Melissa Crow, (Magna Cum Laude - JSU '94) has been working as the drama department's graduate assistant since the fall semester and has been taking her "show on the road" to area high schools.

Melissa has already travelled to schools as far as Huntsville and Birmingham and as close as White Plains and Piedmont. She has given numerous tours of Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center to students from the ages of Girls and Boys Scouts to prospective college students on campus for the day. Melissa is scheduled to speak at several more schools and has a program that can be adapted to interest most groups. If you are interested in having her come speak to your group, please call 205 - 782-5623 - 8:30 - 4:00 Monday-Friday.

## OFFICIAL BOX OFFICE POLICY

All evening performances begin promptly at 8:00 P.M. - Matinees begin at 2:00 P.M. Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager. No babes-in-arms allowed (children under two). Small children (ages 3-4) allowed, only at discretion of the House Manager.

# Alphie Awards

Alpha Psi Omega Honorary Dramatic Fraternity held its annual Alphie Awards ceremony and reception on April 5th. Winners in each category were selected by the drama department's faculty and staff. During the ceremony, which was about two and one half hours shorter than the "Oscars", the following awards were presented:

- Best Actor in a Leading Role - Neil Jones - The Cocktail Hour
- Best Actress in a Leading Role - Ashley Pendley - Romeo & Juliet
- Best Supporting Actor - Gregory Mikell - Romeo & Juliet
- Best Supporting Actress - Jessica Geron - The Cocktail Hour
- Best Male Cameo - Wayne Claeren - Little Women
- Best Female Cameo - Brandi Byers - The Matchmaker
- Best Student Director - Kimberly Kinsey - Little Women
- Best Stage Manager - Mishia Edwards - Man of la Mancha
- Best Assistant Stage Manager - Ashley Pendley - "V" for Victory!
- Best Technician (overall) - Todd Edwards
- Best Costume Technician (overall) - Deborah Johnson
- Best Student Light Design - Chris Collins - Little Women
- Best Student Sound Design - Frank Soukey - Romeo & Juliet
- Best Lighting Technician - Chris Collins
- Best Sound Technician - Jessica Geron
- Best Props Worker - Rene Humphrey
- Best Student Set Design - Todd Edwards - Little Women
- Most Industrious Volunteer - Phillip Roberson
- Most Improved Actor - Tyler Waldrop
- Most Improved Actress - Mishia Edwards
- Best Actor in a Musical - Neil Jones - Man of la Mancha

- Best Actress in a Musical - Lynnelle Terry - Man of la Mancha
- Best Supporting Actor/Musical - Jason St. John - Man of la Mancha
- TIE IN NEXT CATEGORY
- Best Supporting Actress in a Musical
- Kimberly Kinsey and Betty Jeanne Day - Man of la Mancha

This year the students presented two very special awards. One was the Lifetime Achievement award which was presented posthumously to Gene Ericson who had been an instructor for the drama department for several years. The second special award was the Lifetime Supporter of the Arts Award which was presented posthumously to Sharon Dempsey, one of our Angels, and a friend and supporter of all the arts and students on campus.

The Blue and Gold Award for outstanding Alpha Psi Omega Member was presented to Todd Edwards.

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## SUBSCRIBERS

REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR ALL PERFORMANCES EARLY. WE WANT YOU TO HAVE THE BEST SEATING AVAILABLE.

## DRAMABEAT

700 Pelham Road N./339 STONE CENTER  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY  
JACKSONVILLE, ALABAMA 36265

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### The 1995-1996 Theatre Season

Little Women    The Cocktail Hour    Romeo and Juliet    Kismet    How the Other Half Loves    A Higher Place in Heaven    Some Americans Abroad

205-782-5648

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