

Fall 1989

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UNIVERSITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Fall, 1989

Number 3

The 1989-90 season has been finalized. As previously announced, SUCH IS LIFE, winner of the Ronald Williams Playwrighting Competition, opens the season November 8. Dan LaMorte's look at the "next great depression" is being directed by James Barushok, who has just announced that Lara Novey will replace Betty Owens as Gram. SUCH IS LIFE plays November 8-11 and 15-18 in Northeastern's Stage Center, 7:30 pm curtain for all performances.

The second fall production will be supervised by Richard Hesler and will showcase scenes from the advanced acting class. This acting recital will feature contrasting scenes and will offer audiences a wide sampling of plays and performances by the student actors. Admission is free, but tickets will be required. December 6-9 in the Stage Center.

February will bring three student directed plays to the Stage Center in repertory performances. Anita Chiarenza will direct Joe Orton's THE RUFFIAN ON THE STAIRS and John Millington Synge's THE TINKER'S WEDDING. The two one-acts will premiere February 7. The following evening, N. Richard Nash's ECHOES, directed by Marko Urukalo, will be offered. The productions will alternate in performance through February 17, Wednesday through Saturday. Tryouts for the two one-acts being directed by Anita will be held in the Stage Center November 27 and 28.

The final production of the 1989-90 season will be the previously announced World War II comedy/drama, MISTER ROBERTS, to be directed by Durward Redd. Auditions will be held in late February for the May 9-12, 16-19 performances.

It has been brought to the attention of the Governing Board of the University Theatre that some confusion exists among students concerning future involvement by the University Theatre in the regional ACTF. Up until this year, our region has consisted of two states, Illinois and Wisconsin, part of a 12 region division. This region has now been expanded to include six states, including Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. This means that in the future, a festival might well be held 1,000 miles (or more) from the Chicago area. Last season, it cost the University Theatre over \$8,000.00 to mount FROM MORN TILL MIDNIGHT, and to present it at the regional festival, less than 200 miles from Chicago. Obviously, with an annual budget of around \$10,000.00, the remainder of the season suffers from such a large expenditure on a single production. While active participation in the ACTF seems a valid and desirable activity, the Board feels that such participation should occur no more often than once every three years, leaving an opening for expensive, large cast productions and/or the production of a musical (which often costs as much as twice that of a non-musical). The University Theatre will continue to participate in ACTF by entering certain productions as "associate" productions which means that the show will be adjudicated and that Irene Ryan acting nominations are possible. Directors of individual productions may request the associate participation when they so desire, and the Board will act upon the individual requests,