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UTN Staff

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UNIVERSITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

January

1990

PVT. WARS

A COMEDY IN ONE ACT

BY JAMES McLURE

PVT. WARS is a daffy, three character comedy which takes place in a Veterans' Hospital during 1978. Gately is a young southerner, childlike but not stupid. Silvio is an Italian-American, streetwise, tough but not cruel. Natwick is a spoiled rich kid from Long Island who never should have been in the armed forces. Each of these three characters has been physically and psychologically wounded in Vietnam combat. The play is a series of vivid vignettes establishing the maimed character's quirks. A bond that is forged among them is made up of loneliness and adversity, expressed in terms of jokes, threats and braggings. Each G.I. proudly reiterates that he is free to leave the hospital whenever he chooses, but they are less well than they pretend. Each uses a number of wacky psychological defences to fend off the reality of their injuries and the scary world outside. The odd camaraderie among these three mismatched individuals provides a warmly optimistic note in this alternately hilarious and poignant legacy of the Tet Offensive.

Professor DURWARD A. REDD is the director of the production. Student ALLEN DAVIS is the set and lighting designer. As is always the case with all University Theatre productions, all performances of PVT. WARS are open to Northeastern Illinois University students/faculty/staff free of charge with the proper identification. There are nine performances of PVT. WARS scheduled January 23 through 26, 1991. (Complete schedule of performances, time and cast, appears on the back page). The running time of this University Theatre Showcase production is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Plan now to attend one of the nine performances.

JIMMY BORTO (Natwick). Jimmy made his Stage Center debut as one of the Party Animals in the world premiere performances of JACKS OR BETTER, and was last seen in MISTER ROBERTS, first as a medic and then as Dowdy replacing the original actor when illness prevented his continuing in the performances. Jimmy has done numerous bit parts in television and film, here in Chicago and on the west coast. After graduating this year as a Speech and Performing Arts major, he hopes to become a film maker.

ALLEN W. DAVIS (Gately). PVT. WARS is Allen's second McLure play, having appeared as the droll Cletis T. Fullerton in LONE STAR produced in the Stage Center in 1987. Other Stage Center roles include Adam in AS YOU LIKE IT, and Alexander in KILLING GAME. Allen is also the set and lighting designer for PVT. WARS. He has also designed lights for TINKER'S WEDDING and was stage manager for DRACULA--A TALE OF TERROR. Allen is a Northeastern senior majoring in Theatre and Economics.

BRIAN K. MINARCIK (Natwick). Brian first appeared on stage at Northeastern in IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT WE HEAR... and was Stefanowski in last season's MISTER ROBERTS. In high school, Brian appeared in seventeen productions, his favorites being Teddy Roosevelt in ARSENIC AND OLD LACE and the Father in FATHER OF THE BRIDE. Brian has also done industrial and instructional films. A current junior with a double major--Secondary Ed, Speech and English, Brian plans to be a high school teacher and/or a youth pastor.

JACALYN SEATON (The Nurse). Jackie is appearing in the role of a nurse for the second time in less than a year as she was the Stage Center's Nurse Anne Girard in last May's MISTER ROBERTS. She was Jeanne in KILLING GAME and has appeared as Dorothy in THE WIZARD OF OZ and as Tuptin in THE KING AND I. After graduating 5th in her high school class of 350, Jackie is now a senior at Northeastern majoring in Human Resource Development.

JIMMY SHEEHAN (Gately). Jimmy's face is familiar to Stage Center audiences having played Lindstrom in MISTER ROBERTS, Jean in KILLING GAME and The Referee in FROM MORN TILL MIDNIGHT (a production which played the Regional American College Theatre Festival in 1989). Other favorite roles include Charlie Cowell in THE MUSIC MAN and Murray in THE ODD COUPLE. In addition to acting, Jimmy is proficient in the technical areas of theatre. He is in his third year at Northeastern.

MIKE SOLARTE (Silvio). Mike made his stage debut at the Stage Center in a big way (pun intended--6'4", 210 lbs.) appearing in the title role in last spring's successful revival of MISTER ROBERTS. His previous stage experience was opening and closing sliding doors for a futuristic production of A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM. But he has done play-by-play hockey for Continental Cablevision and Post Newsweek Cable. Mike is a senior at Northeastern majoring in Communications.

* PVT. WARS PERFORMANCES *

Wednesday, January 23	11:15 am	SOLARTE/DAVIS/BORTO/SEATON (Sold Out)
	7:30 pm	SOLARTE/SHEEHAN/MINARCIK/SEATON
Thursday, January 24	1:45 pm	SOLARTE/SHEEHAN/MINARCIK/SEATON
	7:30 pm	SOLARTE/DAVIS/BORTO/SEATON
Friday, January 25	11:15 am	SOLARTE/SHEEHAN/MINARCIK/SEATON (Sold Out)
	7:30 pm	SOLARTE/SHEEHAN/MINARCIK/SEATON
	9:00 pm	SOLARTE/DAVIS/BORTO/SEATON
Saturday, January 26	7:30 pm	SOLARTE/DAVIS/BORTO/SEATON
	9:00 pm	SOLARTE/SHEEHAN/MINARCIK/SEATON