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## University Theatre Newsletter- April 8, 1993

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# NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

VOLUME TWO NUMBER FIVE

APRIL 8, 1993

## UNIVERSITY THEATRE 'LOOKS UP' TO THE FATHER

The University Theatre will present, The Father on April 15, 16, 17, and 21, 22, 23, 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Stage Center. In the production, author August Strindberg expresses his dislike for women as the play turns into a battle of the sexes.

Director Richard Hesler has adapted the play to reflect the change in status of women from 1887, the year the play was written, to the present and the immediate future. The Captain (the father of the title) is not defeated by one woman, but by the woman's movement. The male dominant society of the first scene is replaced by the female dominated one by the end of the play.

Robert G. Smith is designing sets and lighting, and Darice DaMata-Geiger is designing costumes. The Stage Center is located on the N.E.I.U. campus on Bryn Mawr at Central Park. Admission is free for N.E.I.U. students, faculty and staff; \$6.00 for general admission; and \$4.00 for seniors, alumni, and students from other schools.

## ALL ABOUT STRINDBERG

(Johan) August Strindberg (Jan. 22, 1849 - May 14, 1912) was a Swedish novelist and dramatist. The son of an egotistical aristocrat and a former barmaid, young Strindberg grew up in a very unhappy household. Strindberg said in later years that he felt extremely unwanted and insecure. After he studied at Uppsala University for several years, he finally left because he found no interest in lectures and studies. For income, he served as a substitute teacher, painter, librarian, and journalist. It was during these years that he began to write.

His first play, Master Olaf (1872), dealing with the Swedish Reformation, was influenced by Shakespeare. His satirical novel, The Red Room (1879), a novel about life in Stockholm, won rave reviews. Strindberg in his novels and plays usually wrote scenes that reminded him of his sufferings as a child. For example, in his drama The Father (1887), the Captain expresses Strindberg's life by saying, "My parents did not want me, and therefore I am on my own."

His life in marriage also proved to be unhappy. His first marriage to Swedish actress, Siri von Essen (1877), ended in divorce as well as did his marriages to Frida Uhl (1896), and Norwegian actress Harriet Basse (1904).

Other works include Miss Julie (1888), Creditors (1888), A Dream Play (1902), and The Ghost Sonata (1907).

Both A Dream Play and The Ghost Sonata have been performed by the University Theatre.

## NORTHEASTERN WELCOMES THE ELEMENT THEATRE COMPANY

Performing at Northeastern this summer will be the Element Theatre Company, a professional Chicago theatre company in a production of Albert Camus' Caligula. The Element Theatre is under the artistic direction of Wendy Rohm, and has produced theatre throughout Chicago for the past several years, receiving critical acclaim for their work. Element recently produced Harold Pinter's Old Times at Cafe Voltaire with NEIU alumni Dan Torbica as director, Judy Anderson as stage manager and Jeff Willgale as understudy and production assistant. The production was designed by University Theatre's Robert G. Smith.

The intention of the co-production with Element is to give even better inroads into professional theatre to NEIU students than already exist. Everyone is invited to audition and to work on crews; enrollment in summer classes is not necessary, although some talent scholarships are available. Audition dates and requirements will be posted soon. Copies of the play should be available in most good libraries and bookstores.

Opening night for Caligula will be June 24 and the production will run Thursday through Saturday evenings and Sunday matinees through August 1st. Some of the major roles will be cast with professional actors, but the Element strongly encourages everyone to audition.

## now playing

CHILDREN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP  
THE GREAT CROSS  
COUNTRY RACE  
THROUGH APRIL 28

THE FATHER  
APRIL 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24

For tickets, call (312) 794 - 6652

- Josephine Cadiz, Marilyn C. Mueller