

University Theatre

presents

Winner Ronald Williams Playwriting Competition

RICHARD CAVALIER'S

Speaking of Charlie

directed by DAVID F. UNUMB

designed by ROBERT G. SMITH

MARCH 25, 26, 31, APRIL 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

7:30pm

Admission: \$5.00
special rates for Students/Seniors

UNI Stage Center
583-4050 Fxt. 3750 Brvn Mawr/Central Park



Northeastern Illinois University
Journal of Performing Arts
 FEBRUARY-MAY
 1988



THERE IS TENSION HERE. Calvin (Peter Kell) shakes hands with his young ex-lover Thurston (James Dalquist). Martha (Donnette Tocwish), wife of Calvin, watches Thurston warily while her daughter and Thurston's fiance Alison (Linda Lee Schmidt), glares at her mother. (Story below)

(Photo by UNI graphic services)

Speaking Of Charlie Wins!

Speaking of Charlie, a two-act comedy submitted by Chicago playwright Richard Cavalier, is the first recipient of the Ronald Williams playwright contest. The play has four characters and revolves around the revelation that father has had an affair with his daughter's fiance.

Peter Kell is Calvin (father), Donnette A. Tocwish is Martha (mother), Linda Lee Schmidt is Alison (daughter), and James Dahlquist is Thurston (fiance). Dr. David Unumb, Chairperson of the Speech and Performing Arts, is the director. Robert G. Smith designed the set and lighting, Darice Damata-Gieger is responsible for costumes, and Patrick Michael Collins is the Production Manager.

Moral values and responsibilities are called into question when Alison brings Thurston home to meet her parents. "*Speaking of Charlie* argues that sexual realities must be dealt with rationally; and the resolution of the dramatic conflict addresses this," according to Durward Redd, Director of Theatre.

A benefit performance is scheduled for March 24, the

opening night is March 25. The playing dates are March 26-31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9. General admission is \$5.00 with special rates for students and senior citizens. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Stage Center. For information call 583-4061, extension 3750.

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 14, 1988

For More Information call
Dick Cavalier
~~(312) 784-9636~~

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRODUCES PRIZEWINNING PLAY

The University Theatre of Northeastern is pleased to announce the Premiere performances of the winner of the First Annual *Ronald Williams Playwriting Competition, SPEAKING OF CHARLIE, by Richard Cavalier of Chicago. SPEAKING OF CHARLIE, directed by Speech and Performing Arts Department Chairperson, Dr. David Unumb, will preview on March 24 with a Benefit Performance for the Ronald Williams Scholarship Fund.

SPEAKING OF CHARLIE is a contemporary drama exploring the ethics of a topic rarely examined in literature. Unlike many plays, it deals, not with the morality of sexual behavior, but the responsibility of it. In SPEAKING OF CHARLIE, a seemingly traditional family confronts a member's bisexuality. The crisis resulting from this confrontation provokes the family to question the validity of--and damage done by--arbitrary rules that dominate our society's view of the values of love.

SPEAKING OF CHARLIE explores the relationships between a father, mother, their young adult daughter and her fiance. The play begins by being an apparently typical "bringing the boy home to meet the parents" drama. The father perpetuates this by behaving as the typically skeptical parent. But as the play unfolds, deeper more complex relationships among the four are revealed, resulting in confused moral values and questioning Moral Responsibility.

SPEAKING OF CHARLIE argues that sexual realities must be dealt with rationally; and the resolution of the dramatic conflict addresses this. Given the present AIDS crisis, the play offers a moral for our times.

In addition to the March 24 Benefit, SPEAKING OF CHARLIE begins its regular run Friday March 25 and will play Thursday through Saturday evening, March 25-26, March 31-April 2, and April 7-9, 1988 in Northeastern's Stage Center. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.00, with special rates available for Northeastern students, faculty/staff, and seniors. For further information, contact the Box Office, 583-4061, ext. 3750.

-more-

*Ronald Williams was the immediate past president of Northeastern Illinois University, recently deceased.)

U UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Dr. DAVID UNUMB, Department Chairperson
Stage Director

Dr. JAMES BARUSHOK, Director Graduate Program
Stage Director

DURWARD REDD, Director of Theatre
Stage Director

RICHARD HESLER
Stage Director/Acting Coach

KAT MATASSARIN
Publicity Director/Voice Coach

ROBERT G. SMITH
Set Designer/Technical Director

DARICE DaMATA-GEIGER
Costume Designer

STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Technical Director
TONY DISVISOUR

Stage Management
JACQUELINE OETKER

Publicity
LOUISE COTTINI
MARY BETH BURNS
KELLY ANNE FLEMING

Media
DAVID LINDENBAUM

House Management
KAREN PETERSON
DONNETTE TOCWISH

Props
ANGELA OETKER

Scenery/Lights
MARK CLOVER
JAMES DAHLQUIST
JAMES BOVE III
LINDA LEE SCHMIDT
LEE SCHROEDER
JEFF WILLGALE
DAVID L. SCHULTE

Northeastern
Illinois
University
Theatre

SPRING 1988

PETER SCOTT KELL, a senior at Northeastern, is carrying a double major in history and English literature. He made his acting debut at UNI last fall in Dracula and has ushered for several shows.

ANDREW E. MARTIN has served the last five years as a member of the Lyric Opera Supernumary Corps. He has acted in, as well as helped out with, the technical aspects of Dracula, Broadway, The American Dream. He was also seen in a Chicago area production of The Mousetrap.

GENA MOLINA, a mass media major at UNI, is a member of the UNI Video Production Group. She has completed two documentaries which will hopefully air on cable this summer.

ANGELA OETKER is a senior at Northeastern and has worked on every technical aspect of production on virtually every show in the past four years.

JACQUELINE A. OETKER, UNI senior, has worked on all productions since coming to Northeastern five years ago. She is especially proud of being production co-ordinator on the premiere performances of Teacher last season.

KAREN PETERSON returns as Sheryl in Jacks or Better after winning praise for her Bag Lady in If You Could See What We Hear... She hopes for a professional career in musical theatre.

MARCO V. PISANI is a DJ at WZRD. He has done projects for the Bangles, Ron Howard, and produced and arranged an album for Stewart Jacobson.

LINDA LEE SCHMIDT, UNI senior, is a member of both the National Honors Society and StagePlayers. Linda has appeared in Ludlow Fair, As You Like It and Laundry and Bourbon.

LEE SCHROEDER, UNI freshman, is a performing arts major and talent scholarship holder. In addition to working in the box-office and on set construction, he is involved with writing and acting in a church youth group.

DAVID L. SCHULTE made his Stage Center debut as young EDWIN BOOTH. Since then, he has acted in numerous productions as well as giving technical support.

CYNTHIA SPINA is actively pursuing a speech major at UNI. She has worked with video cameras as well as making sales announcements for Dominicks.

JOANNE STINE is a speech and performing arts major who hopes to make a career in radio. Currently she is working with behavior disorder adolescents at an alternative high school.

DONNETTE A. TOCWISH, UNI sophomore, has appeared in Dracula, Angel City and As You Like It. She is involved with the Palos Village Players and has modeled for the North River Side Ambassador Board from which she received a scholarship.

MARKO URUKALO is working towards a Masters Degree and recently won third place in a playwrighting contest. He co-authored Dracula and Last Dance, also appearing in the latter. Other stage appearances include Broadway, Sounds and Words and If You Could See What We Hear...

DENISE WATSON is a speech/communications major. She is interested in all aspects of the performing arts, both on stage and off.

JEFFREY WILLGALE, affectionately known as "Sparky", has been seen in As You Like It and If You Could See What We Hear... He is also an active Student Senator.

SHING HEI WOO, a speech major, is treasurer of the film and video club here at Northeastern. He has made several videos, including music, commercials and documentaries.

JAMES V. BOVE III has been working in the UNI theatre program for the last three years. He is currently a senior looking towards a future in set design and construction.

MARY BETH BURNS, UNI junior, has been seen in Ludlow Fair, Nightlife of the Gods and Dracula (for which she received a nomination to compete at the American College Theatre Festival in January) She performs in various community theatres, and was a member of the Improv Olympics at Cross Current Theatre.

MARK ALEXANDER CLOVER, UNI sophomore, has been involved in every production since January, 1987, including acting in Dracula, As You Like It and An Enemy of the People. He is serving on the University Theatre Governing Board, is Station Manager of WZRD and is a member of the Student Senate.

PATRICK MICHAEL COLLINS has appeared in several UNI productions including As You Like It, Broadway, The Good Doctor and The Fantasticks. He has worked at The Rare Terra Theatre Company and for Pegasus Players on Charlie's Aunt, The Devil's Disciple and She Loves Me.

ELIZABETH COOL, UNI junior, was introduced to the theatre at the age of seven. At UNI she performed in Broadway and Teacher, has been stage manager, house manager and has worked on several prop crews.

EDDIE CORREA graduates this semester from UNI. He played the Drunk in An Enemy of the People and is currently doing set construction and publicity.

LOUISE COTTINI, UNI Sophomore, recently appeared in If You Could See What We Hear... and has worked on publicity and box-office for every show since coming to Northeastern. Performances at other schools include Our Town and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

JAMES DAHLQUIST graduates in April with a major in Speech Communications and a minor in marketing. Jim has worked on numerous shows while at UNI and appeared in Sounds and Words, An Enemy of the People, As You Like It and Dracula.

ALLEN DAVIS, UNI senior, is treasurer of StagePlayers. He has appeared in Lone Star, An Enemy of the People and As You Like It. He has worked as stage manager, light operator and set construction for numerous Northeastern productions.

TONY DISVISCOUR has appeared in Dracula, Before I Die, Broadway and As You Like It. He was technical director for both Ludlow Fair and The American Dream. Tony has been master carpenter, stage manager, light operator and has worked on props and running crew.

KELLY ANNE FLEMING is an Early Childhood Education major, interested in teaching Creative Dramatics with children. She has been seen at Northeastern in Edwin Booth, Last Dance and If You Could See What We Hear... Kelly has been publicity assistant for the past two years.

CATRICE GREEN will be making her acting debut as Melinda in Jacks or Better. This eighteen-year old is a freshman at Northeastern.

WILLARD GREEN returns to Northeastern after appearing in numerous TV commercials and industrial training films. Stage Center audiences will remember his fine performances including the title role in Snoopy, Gemini, South Pacific, The Fantasticks, Annie Get Your Gun and will make his directing debut with the zany comedy Present Tense in August.

KIM GRIGAR is working towards a degree in Secondary Education in Music and has a theatre minor from the University of Wisconsin,

JENNIFER KASTIGAR, a communications major at UNI, is working on her first production here. In high school she was involved with both acting and backstage work.