

# Visit the dark side of human nature at the Studio Theatre

by Valerie Trost  
staff writer

The play, *The Visit*, is a pitch-black story of mystery and corruption illustrating the darkness of betrayal and revenge to its fullest. This unique show begins in the Studio Theatre on February 19th and continues to run through the 28th.

In *The Visit*, an extremely wealthy woman returns to the town she grew up in only to find the village in economic turmoil. The villagers have no alternative but to turn to her for help. However, her offerings do not come at a small price. She wants "justice," or rather her revenge on crimes committed against her from the past.

Explore the mystery and dark side of human nature as friends and neighbors retaliate against each other in order to get what they want. Will the explanation of their actions erase the sins of the past and become suitable punishment, or will it be destruction for the whole town?

Tony Elliot, lecturer of Theatre and Studio Theatre director, is particularly pleased with the assortment of new and experienced performers who to-

gether make up the cast of *The Visit*. Playing the lead roles of Claire Zachanassian and Anton Schill are upperclassmen Angel Moreno and Joe Getway.

This will be Angel's first Studio Theatre performance although she is skilled on stage. Joe has been seen in the Studio Theatre before in such memorable roles as Bo from last year's production of *Only You* as well as appearances in *Antigone* and *The Rice of Strangers*.

Another recognizable face in *The Visit* is Bond Davis (playing Kobby, the Blind Man) who has also been seen in *Only You* playing Leo, as well as a mix of other productions such as *Heaven Valley*, *The Rice of Strangers*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Also from the *Pirates of Penzance* cast are Daryl Dambaugh and Leo Hanley.

Moving from the classroom to the stage is assistant professor of Mechanical Engineering, Ken Saunders, playing the role of the mayor.

Making their exciting Studio Theatre debuts are Mark Ahrends, Jana Magoc, David Sonney, Jack Kichura, Susan Rohde, Tanya Waltenbaugh, Amy Vay, and Bethany Cummings.

Altogether these fourteen cast members make up an inspiring blend of new and old faces.

Elliot commented that "Part of the reason I chose this play, besides the fact that it is a wonderfully dark story, is because it offers many roles and will allow many of our student actors their first performance experience. I have adapted the play as more of an ensemble piece rather than a 'star' vehicle for the two central characters. I think our campus will enjoy the mystery inherent in the story."

*The Visit* will once more alter the Studio Theatre's appearance. The stage will run down the center of the studio, with the audience seated on either side. "It will be a challenge for me, for my actors, and I think, for the audience," says Elliot. "But I think this staging style will serve the play well!"

This show is so unique you will not want to miss it.

Reservations for *The Visit* can be made starting February 8th, by calling the Studio Theatre Box Office at 898-6016.

Once again, the show will begin running on February 19th through the 28th.



Students rehearse for the upcoming Studio Theatre presentation of *The Visit*

photo by Andrea Zaffino

# Comedian Ben Bailey Cures Students' Stress at Bruno's

by Ryan Cannon  
staff writer

On Friday, January 22, dramatic images of reading, writing, and arithmetic were dancing in the minds of Behrend students in Bruno's. Just then, an object shot out of the comedy cosmos; it's a bird, it's a plane, no, it's stand-up comedian Ben Bailey! Bailey delivered exactly what those academically exhausted students were thirsting for: laughter. At a time when stand-up comedians are often mediocre at best, it is difficult to get a good laugh. Bailey's routine was surprisingly pleasing. He provided his audience with some genuine laughter.

Bailey, a New Yorker, arrived at Bruno's Cafe with a wide array of weapons in his comedy arsenal. He began the evening familiarizing himself with some of the estimated 65 audience members by chatting with students about campus life here at Behrend. This enabled him to put the crowd's personality in direct aim, on

which he opened fire with a barrage of jokes.

Bailey delivered humorous puns about topics such as college life, people who dial incorrect telephone numbers, incoherent sayings that people use daily, the legalization of marijuana, and the noise and police of Manhattan. He then shocked the audience with a startling confession. At one point in his life, he had been addicted to nicotine gum. However, he did slowly dissolve his addiction by smoking cigarettes instead.

The final part of his hour long act was a collection of humorous observations related to animals. One of Bailey's insights was about testing products on animals. He feels that people should not get upset when products like shampoos and soaps are tested on animals because, after all, animals would probably like to be clean and enjoy soft, manageable hair, too. Bailey also touched on the maintenance of his pet dog.

At one point, he actually demonstrated for the audience what his dog

looks like when he squats and "fertilizes" the neighbor's lawn. Bailey's animal-related comedy was by far his best material.

The only disappointing aspect of Bailey's comedy act was a couple of hilarious routines that closely resembled those of Jerry Seinfeld. To be specific, they were comments about the evolution of humans as viewed by monkeys and cleaning up after a dog by carrying around its fecal matter in a nice handy bag.

These jokes were extremely similar to Seinfeld's, and definitely of lower quality. However, plagiarism among comedians is popular.

Overall, Bailey's performance was enjoyable in a time where superb comedy is scarce. Some vulgarity was present, but it was kept to a minimum resulting in enjoyment for all that attended.

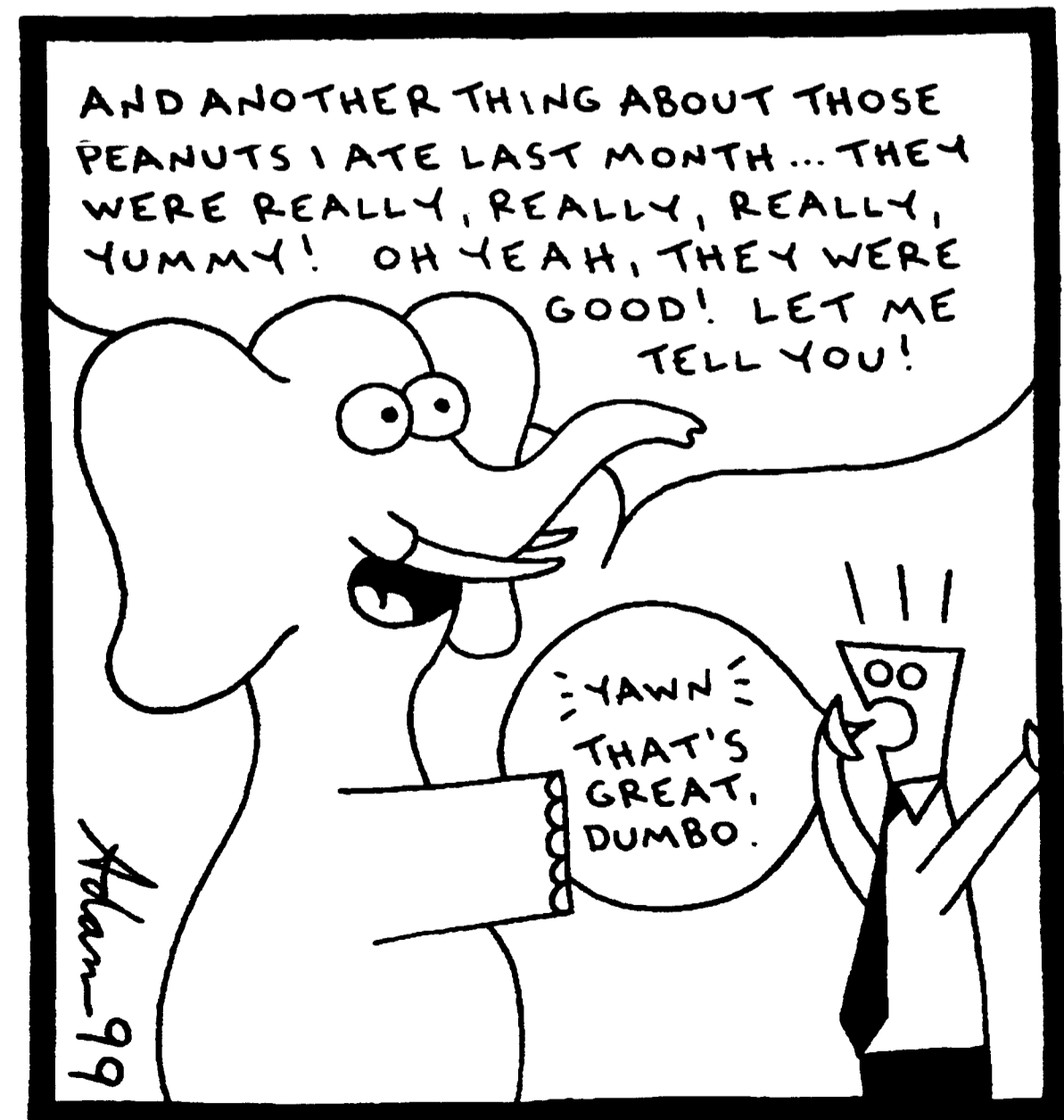
To conclude on a personal note, as comedy's mistress, I highly recommend seeing the comedians that perform on Friday nights in Bruno's Cafe.



Comedian Ben Bailey performs at Bruno's last Friday.

photo by Jason Blake

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