

Field study a success

by Roberta Schultz
 "I want to go back. It's a part of my life that I'll never forget. I think I got a total of about ten hours sleep. We were all running from 7:00 AM to 4:00 AM everyday," recalled Michelle Dula, one enthusiastic participant in a five-day field study of the New York Professional Theatre during spring break. So filled was her schedule that she couldn't even find time to send out post cards until she got home.

A group of fourteen Behrend College students, accompanied by Professor Arno Selco, departed February 27 from Behrend College to take part in Arts and Humanities 198. The two-credit course attracted both theatre and non-theatre majors and included a student from University Park, a retired Penn State teacher, and a Behrend College chemistry professor, Donald Leavers. The course also required a final exam and a research paper.

From their arrival in New York Sunday evening to their return Thursday evening, the group experienced many diverse aspects of theater, from a standing-room-only performance of Broadway's "A Chorus Line" to off-Broadway's "Vanities" to a rehearsal of "Welcome to the Magic of WABC-TV."

Fifth-term theatre student Dennis O'Neill was most impressed with a tour of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts Monday afternoon. Michelle Dula enjoyed "A Chorus Line" at Broadway's Shubert Theatre followed by an unexpected treat when the group had drinks at Sardi's and a warm, friendly conversation with George Pesaturs and Tommy Arguillar from the production. Michelle also noted that the actors were "... thrilled that we recognized them and asked for their autographs."

The variety of activities kept all participants thoroughly occupied. Amused students rummaged through theatrical garb, took a tour of the 46th Street Theatre, had a close-up view of the set of "Chicago", and participated in a seminar on working in the professional theatre. The group convened Wednesday evening to attend a "bloody and gory, deep and well done" performance of "Streamers" staged at the Mitzi Newhouse Theatre at Lincoln Center. A tour of the New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theatre on Lafayette Place concluded the tour.

The general response to the trip was favorable, although the course met some criticism. Kat Mountain, a sophomore biochemistry major, felt that the trip was too "touristy" and lacked a backstage emphasis of theatre. Michelle D'Amico noted, "I learned a lot of behind the stage things that you don't normally get to see... we got a taste of everything."

Asked what impressions students developed about theatre life, most responses were negative. One student gathered that being in a chorus line was like being a piece of chopped meat. Dennis O'Neill observed that theatre people did their best of disillusioning starry-eyed acting hopefuls. He realizes and stresses the importance of a strong willingness to work hard

and of strength of character to surmount the obstacles.

The intensive cultural study is a new course exclusive to Behrend College, a first in Penn State history. Development of the course can be credited to Thomas G. Fox, Dean of Faculty; Robert Schenker, Area Representative for Continuing Education; and Arno Selco, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts, in cooperation with the Field Studies Center of New York.

Behrend Players

by Roberta Schultz
 Collegian Staff
 Writer

The Behrend Players are preparing for their spring production "The Birthday Party" by Harold Pinter. Performances will be staged April 27, 28, 29, 30 and May 4, 5, 6, and 7 at 8:00 PM in the Behrend College Studio Theatre. Tickets go on sale April 20 and cost \$2.50 for the public and \$1.50 for Behrend College students, staff, and faculty. Due to limited seating, only sixty tickets are available for each of the eight performances. Reservations can be made by phoning 898-1511. (An advanced ticket or reservations assures a seat only if presented at the door by 7:45 PM).

Set in a ramshackle boarding house on England's south coast "The Birthday Party", should surprise many theater-goers. The audience will discover an atmosphere different from its standard sit-back-to-be-entertained performances.

New York Times theater critic Clive Barnes referred to the playwright, Harry Pinter, in response to the play's Broadway opening: "His concern is with fear - nasty atavistic fear - in a chrome-plated world, where most of us - certainly most plush-seated theater-goers have nothing to fear but fear itself." He added, "Pinter has clearly been influenced by Samuel Beckett - the lack of ready information for the audience, the atmosphere of ironic puzzlement, the banal sequiturs stinging commonplaces like serpents, the intentionally flat, bland tone - all this they have in common. But what is not clear is the difference of Mr. Pinter's preoccupations and his concern with a new kind of heroic drama..."

The play is the first of its kind attempted by the players, particularly in its experimental nature. Director Arno Selco does not expect the play will be as successful as the group's most recent endeavor, "When You Comin' Back Red Ryder?" but promises this production is a more important one.

The theater was fortunate to obtain Jacqueline S. Watts, an M.F.A. candidate in Design at University Park, to design the set. Jacqueline won an American College Theatre Festival medalion for her costume design of the San Diego State University production of "The Balcony" For Penn State, she designed the costumes for "Scapino" and the setting for "Veronica's Room."



Lawless has a big stick

Junior Tom Lawless was presented the Adirondak Big-Stick Award by Mr. Steve Smith, representative of the Rawlings Adirondak Company. Tom's batting average was .448 while playing on Behrend's baseball team last year.

Financial aid information

The Student Financial Aid Office reports that aid applications for the 77-78 year are available and that students must file the applications now to receive aid next Fall.

Larry Skerlong, Financial Aid Counselor, suggests that students keep the following information in mind when applying for aid:

1) There are three major sources of financial aid—the federal and state governments and the University. Each of the aid sources requires a separate application.

The University provides Work-Study awards, NDSL and University Loans, and SEOG Grants. To be considered for any of these awards you must complete a University Financial Aid Application and a Financial Aid Form (FAF). The FAF replaces the PCS previously submitted by Penn State students.

2) All applications for University-based aid must also apply for BEOG, a federal grant, and if Pennsylvania residents, PHEAA, the state grant. The University will not award University-based aid until it has proof that you have applied for BEOG. Therefore, all applicants for University-based aid must apply for BEOG as soon as possible, and must submit their BEOG award letter to the Student Aid Office as soon as it is received.

3) Both BEOG and PHEAA will mail renewal applications to current recipients before April 1. If you do not currently receive either of these grants, you may obtain the 77-78 application at the Student Aid Office.

4) If you are seeking financial aid for the 77-78 academic year you must submit each of the following: an FAF, a University Financial Aid Application, a BEOG application, and a PHEAA application. Additional scholarship applications are also available at the Student Aid Office.

Keep in mind that grants, loans, and work-study are based

solely on financial need. Scholarships are based on a combination of need and demonstrated academic achievement.

6) Retain copies of your aid applications and record the dates they were submitted.

7) You must reapply for all types of financial aid each year. Receipt of financial aid one year does not guarantee that you will receive aid in subsequent years.

8) Students who applied for but did not receive aid this year should reapply for next year. As a result of changes in student aid regulations, you may be eligible for aid in the future.

9) Adhere to the deadlines indicated on the aid applications. Late applications will be honored only on a funds-available basis.

The 1977-78 Behrend College Financial Aid Booklet is available at the Student Aid Office. The booklet provides information regarding types of aid available, application procedures, deadlines, and student costs. The booklet can be a valuable tool to students who need financial assistance for the coming academic year.



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The cast of the Behrend players spring production of "The Birthday Party": Back row l to r: Gregory Johnson, Timothy Baum, Micheal Raimo. Front row l to r Pamela Pile, Dennis O'Neill, Deirdre McCauley.