

Matchbox Players prepare for season

"Talk Radio" to begin theater season

Talk Radio
by Joe Williams

The Behrend Studio Theater will be a radio station on November 8th.

That's when The Matchbox Players' production of "Talk Radio" opens.

"We have a very ambitious set and sound design," says director Steve Buckwald. "We're attempting to create a radio station and make the voices (of the characters) sound as if they're coming over the phone."

"We are going for a non-traditional design," says Buckwald, "Events of the play will happen in spaces all around the theater. The eyes and ears of the audience will have to keep moving."

Buckwald's purpose in doing this is to stir the audience's imaginations.

"The first purpose (of theater) is to entertain," Buckwald said, "but I believe that it shouldn't be the end-all purpose."

Buckwald wants to give the audience something to think about. He said "the audience should walk away asking questions."

"Talk Radio" is based on the true story of Allen Berg, the host of a radio talk show in the early 1980's.

Berg was gunned down in his driveway the day his show was to go on national radio. Although there were suspects, the case was never solved.

"He was a cross between Robin Williams and Morton Downey Jr.," said Buckwald, "he was loved but hated. He had great ratings"

The play, written by Eric Bogosian, takes place on the night of the show's last local broadcast before going national.

"The play shows how pressure brings out the true man," said Buckwald.

The central character, Barry Champlain, has the pressure of going national, and "all the people in his life come to a vortex on this night," said Buckwald.

Buckwald picked the play because it "is very visceral and alive," he said.

"The play is very contemporary in consideration of tabloid TV," said Buckwald.

It deals with very deep prejudices, and it poses the question "are we willing to sacrifice our moral code for success?"

The play started as a one man show off-Broadway and evolved into the film directed by Oliver Stone, and released last year.

"This experience is particularly exciting," Buckwald said, "there will be a lot of hard work."

Buckwald hopes some special things will come out of this. "If we do our work, it (the play) will knock the audience's socks off," said Buckwald.

He hopes to enter the play into the American College Theater Competition this fall.

"Uncle Buck" tries babysitting

(continued from page 7)

Buck in charge.

That's where the comedy begins to pick up steam. From here on, the movie is gut-splitting in more than a few places.

Buck, an unemployed slob who enjoys his freedom to drink, smoke and gamble to excess, has no experience with children and can't even remember the names of his nieces and nephews. He

decides to move in with the children, however, because it gives him an exit from the otherwise unescapable pressures of future marriage and imminent parenthood with his girlfriend of eight years. Amy Madigan proves her comic ability throughout her portrayal of Buck's beloved.

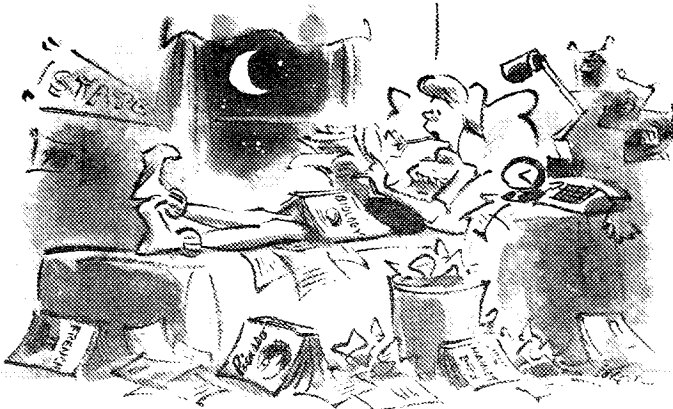
The younger children adore their carefree and fun-loving uncle, while the oldest girl, played to rebellious perfection by newcomer Jean Kelly, gives

Buck, like everyone else in her world, as much trouble as possible.

The conflicts between Buck and his eldest niece, combined with the handling of Buck's relationship problems, allow this film to succeed. Although much of the plot is predictable, director John Hughes ("16 Candles") utilizes Candy's comic genius to produce scenes of pure hilarity. This respectable talent allows "Uncle Buck" to become such a worthwhile comedy.

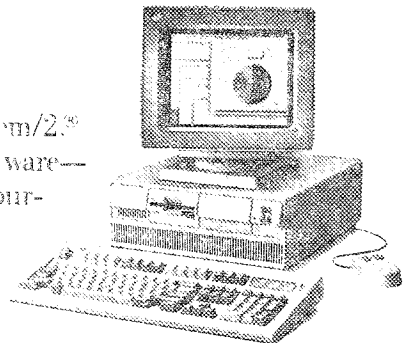
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