

Matchbox Players present:

"Talk Radio" opening tonight on campus; ten performances to be given

by Joe Williams
Collegian Staff Writer

There is an old saying in the theater that goes "A bad dress rehearsal means a good opening night".

If anything went wrong with Monday night's preview of Talk Radio, it wasn't apparent. So if the old Thespians Tale is true, opening night of Talk Radio should be fantastic.

"Talk Radio" centers around Barry Champlain, played by Philip Pierre, and his last radio talk show before going on national radio.

The play comments on the state of American culture and the sleaze factor has infected every form of media. This has become main stream, and accepted.

Pierre has been given an excellent opportunity to show off many talents from his high energy performance as Barry, to his high tech set design, to his intricate lighting and sound design.

Rarely is one person given an opportunity to take on so many tasks, and carry them off so well.

Performances were solid throughout the 22 member cast.

Mariannette Torres plays Linda, Barry's producer/lover with complete maternal calmness.

Bernie McNally gives an admirable performance as Stu, Barry's operator and oldest friend.

Chaimene Pettit gives a polished performance that goes beyond her years as Jackie, Barry's ex-wife. She radiates a warmth that let's you know how much she's still in love with Barry.

Adam Gantz gives a skillful performance as Dan, Barry's slick dealing executive producer.

Another stand out performance is delivered by Bill Gibbard as Kent, a teenage rock-n-roll airhead, who visits the talk show.

Steve Buckwald directed the production with the finesse of an orchestra conductor.

Pulling together the huge cast, the complicated technical light and sound design, and the vigorous script couldn't have been easy.

In spite of its overall complexity the entire show runs smoothly.

The Matchbox players, Buchwald and Penn State Behrend have a production they can be proud of.

Talk Radio runs November 8th through the 19th from 9 to 5 p.m. Call 898-6331 for reservations. It's important to call soon for tickets otherwise you might miss out on a good show.

TALK RADIO BY ERIC BOGOSIAN

November 8-19

For Reservations

Call: 898-6331

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

STUDIO THEATRE
Penn State • Behrend