

Musician or comedian?



Funny music: Musician Dave Wopat will entertain us with his fun and hilarious show combining comic expression with his award-winning, passionate music. Wopat will be at Bruno's Friday, Feb. 7 at 8 p.m.

The Man Who Came to Dinner: Hilarious success

by Vicky Snyder
The Collegian

The Roadhouse Theatre presented another rib cracking comedy written by George Kaufman and Moss Hart. *The Man Who Came to Dinner* was cleverly directed by Scott McClelland who molded the script into a hilarious depiction of a self-centered, city writer who accidentally finds himself in a small, no-where town in 1939.

The play opens with Mrs. Stanley (Sue Hedges) running frantically through her finely decorated home, trying to make sure everything is perfect for their famous house-guest, Sheridan Whiteside.

We also see Richard Stanley (Behrend student Danny Burger) and June Stanley (Christy Buchholz) run through without notice. Through all of this activity, we learn that Mr. Whiteside has slipped on a piece of ice covering the Stanley's walkway and will be staying with the family until he recovers from his injuries.

Little did the Stanleys know that their guest would virtually take over the house. He threatens them with a \$150,000 lawsuit if

they don't stay upstairs in their bedrooms during his visit. He makes it clear that he now has control over the phone, butler and cook.

The only person who seems to be able to exert some amount of pressure on Whiteside is his secretary, Maggie Cutler (Kim Mc). She is a very efficient, quick-minded character who sets Whiteside straight from time to time.

Maggie falls in love with the local newspaper man, Bert Jefferson (Dennis Dressler). Whiteside, jealous over Maggie's romance, sends for the beautiful actress, Lorraine Sheldon (Tina Corraire), who is desperate for a part in a play. It just so happens that Jefferson has written a brilliant play.

After discovering Whiteside's plan, Maggie devises a plan of her own. She instructs one of his lunatic friends to imitate the voice of Sheldon's rich, English lover over the phone. Sheldon falls for the false marriage proposal until she discovers the trick was set up by Maggie. This motivates her to continue the chase for Jefferson, Maggie's only real love.

The rest of the play centered

on trying to get rid of Lorraine Sheldon and restore Jefferson and Maggie's relationship. This is done by using some very side-splitting, slap-stick humor. Sheldon finally ends up being toted away in a mummy case sent as a gift by one of Whiteside's many strange friends.

Ben Agresti, who plays the wise-cracking, egotistical writer Sheridan Whiteside, turns in a vigorous performance. His one-liners are executed in flawless harmony with his colorful facial expressions. Each line prompts a burst of laughter from the audience.

Other well-played parts include Nurse Preen (Ruth Scandale), who puts up with Whiteside's insults as she attempts to give him his medicine. Harriett Stanley (Ruth Andrews) plays the insane sister of Mr. Stanley who drifts in to show Whiteside her photo albums and always runs away when other people enter the room.

This group of talented actors, armed with a recipe for laughter, put on a brilliant show. Each character fit the part and every detail is carefully thought out.

Bates and Tandy serve up *Fried Green Tomatoes*

by Craig Campbell
The Collegian

Violence, explosions and people getting stabbed to death! These are the things that I'm usually attracted to in a movie. *Fried Green Tomatoes*, however, had none of these, but I still liked it.

Kathy Bates (whom all of us remember from *Misery*) stars in this film as Evelyn Couch, an overweight housewife whose marriage is beginning to fail. She goes with her husband to visit

his aunt in an old-folks-home and when the aunt doesn't want to visit with her, she decides to sit in the waiting room. This is where she meets Ninny (Jessica Tandy - star of *Driving Miss Daisy*).

Ninny begins to tell tales of life in the old days, but Evelyn (along with the audience) gets wrapped up in the story. The story is about a young girl named Idgy, a tomboy character whose brother is killed leaving her emotionally scarred. We follow Idgy as she grows up and deals

with her soap opera life.

She is withdrawn from her family, so her dead brother's girlfriend, Ruth, tries to get her to open up and soon Ruth and Idgy become best friends. We see that there is more to Idgy than meets the eye. She is actually a caring, but gutsy young lady.

All of the stories that Ninny tells Evelyn are told as Evelyn visits the old-folks-home, and like in the story about Ruth and Idgy, Ninny and Evelyn become best friends. Evelyn is trying to save her marriage and become a

stronger person, and Ninny's stories help her to do that. Evelyn finds her inner strength and begins to change her life to make herself more happy.

This movie is very funny at certain times and very sad at certain times also. The two different story lines keep the audience's interest and even though there aren't machine guns firing at our hero like in *Die Hard*, there are times when I am pulled to the edge of my seat.

The actors' performances are brilliant, but I have one problem

with this movie. I sat waiting for Kathy Bates to strap Tandy to her bed and wack her foot off with a sledge hammer (it doesn't happen).

One pointer I do have though is don't go see this movie with a bunch of guys; take a date or maybe even your mom. Either way just go see it, it's worth the six bucks to get in and it's better than sitting in front of the TV watching *Different Strokes* reruns.



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