

## Other Stage program debuts this winter

# Theatre plans experimental works

The Provincetown Theatre Company's 22nd season will feature the debut of a state-financed program devoted to new and experimental works.

In addition to three major productions, the company will be produce three Other Stage Programs under the grant.

These programs were made possible by an \$8,000 award from the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities.

Other Stage will give new playwrights and new directors the opportunity to present new works and to try new approaches to an audience, said Alix Ritchie, president of the Provincetown Theatre Company.

Because of Provincetown's history and reputation, there is a demand to do original work, she said.

Each of the three productions will run one weekend, instead of the three weekends each major production runs, she said.

The season's first Other Stage offering will be "Nightlunch," an original play written and directed by John Russell. Ritchie said it was appropriate that the first play is Russell's since he is the immediate past-president of the Provincetown Theatre Company.

Billed by its author as a "comedy, mystery, fairytale kind of play," it takes place in a New York City subway station. "It's a very unique and interesting piece," said Ritchie.

"Nightlunch" will run November 28

through December 2.

In January, the company's second Other Stage production, "Hotel Elysee" will be unveiled. It is an original work done by David Simpson.

The company received a number of scripts and proposals for its Other Stage productions. When the board sat down to look them over, said Ritchie, "Hotel Elysee" jumped out at them. "It has Provincetown as its setting and is beautifully written. The writing is exquisite," she said.

The play concerns an imaginary meeting in Provincetown between Eugene O'Neill and Tennessee Williams, both of whom lived in Provincetown for a time, and characters from two of their plays, Blanche DuBois from Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire" and Mary Tirone from O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey Into Night."

The play will run from January 10-13.

The third Other Stage slot, scheduled for early March, has purposely been left open, said Ritchie.

The company will be sponsoring workshops this season. Ritchie said the third production would develop from the workshops.

The workshops will include writers, producers and directors. Time will be available to work on material developed in the workshops, whether it is a new work or a new approach.

After each production Ritchie hopes to have the audience stay for a discussion

with the playwright, director and other people involved in the production. A free-wheeling discussion with the audience will be beneficial to everyone involved, she said.

"The give and take should become part of the process."

Ritchie said the company has been wanting to do this for two years but couldn't afford it. "We just didn't have the resources," she said.

By having one-weekend runs, the Other Stage productions won't have the money or the pressure that major productions have, said Ritchie. The lower scale operation, in terms of financing, will reduce some of the risk.

It will encourage new and experimental works, she said.

Money from the grant will be going to programs besides Other Stage. The company will be working on a number of plans to serve the community.

The workshops will be part of an educational continuum, said Ritchie. She wants to see the workshops done on a programmatic basis that gets the schools involved, from grade schools through colleges.

Ritchie also wants to expand the rural outreach program. "We want to go to people who can't come to us," she said.

The company is working with Channel 8, the local community-access channel to produce "Mama Rosa." Directed by Charles Horne, the show is an improvisa-

tional workshop scripted for television.

The company is also working on radio theater.

"We have an obligation to the community," said Ritchie. The company is trying to reach as many people as possible and trying to get them involved.

Ritchie said it is hard to tell whether the Other Stage productions will carry over into the summer. "People work in the summer and don't have time," she said.

Ritchie said she dreams of eventually having a repotroire theater in the summer and a community theater in the winter.

ALAN INDUSTRIES INC.  
 NEW SEABURY ROTARY  
 MASHPEE, MA 02649  
 (617) 477-1083

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 STATEMENT  
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LAURA GREEN  
 4 FRANKLIN  
 PROVINCETOWN, MA 02657

STATEMENT DATE : 04/01/85

INV #	TYPE	REF/CHECK #	DATE	INV/DM AMOUNT	DISC/ALLOW	PAY/CM AMOUNT
05072	INV		12/03/84	\$104.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
05297	SC		01/31/85	\$1.56	\$0.00	\$0.00
05409	SC		02/27/85	\$1.59	\$0.00	\$0.00
05544	SC		03/29/85	\$1.61	\$0.00	\$0.00

Night Lunch

*paid 4/22/85  
 # 233*

CURRENT	30-60 DAYS	60-90 DAYS	OVER 90 DAYS	TOTAL
\$1.61	\$1.59	\$1.56	\$104.47	\$109.23

107.10 TC  
 → 216.33

p.m. ADVOCATE 10 25 84

**AUDITIONS.** There will be auditions and interviews open to the entire Cape community for the comedy "Loot" on Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3 at the Provincetown Art Association and Museum from noon to 5 p.m.

Copies of the play are available at the reserve desk of the Provincetown Library beginning Monday, October 29.

Five actors and one actress are needed to fill roles ranging in age from 18 to 68. For more information call 487-4276.

**THEATRE COMPANY.** The Provincetown Theatre Company will be having auditions for "Nightlunch" which will open November 28.

Two actors are needed to play the parts of James Sawyer, an arrogant and deadly businessman and Nick, the hotdog man.

For details call John at 487-9254 or leave a message at the theatre, 487-3466.

11-22-84

**THEATRE COMPANY.** "Nightlunch," a new play by John Russell, opens today at 8 p.m. at the Provincetown Art Association.

It will run for five days through December 2.

The play, the company's first other stage production of the season, is a blend of comedy and mayhem with a touch of mystery.

For reservations call 487-2695. Tickets are \$2.50 for everyone.

ADVOCATE