

ENGL2140 performs a classic

By CALUM JOHNSTON
Preview Reviewer

Wednesday evening I was given the honor of being allowed to attend the dress rehearsal of *ON THE RAZZLE*, a play being put on by WORKSHOP PRODUCTIONS. This was the final rehearsal before their performances in front of live audience on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Judging from the preview I don't think that the cast and crew will have any problems, the show was quick-witted, and



Ken MacGillivray and Sherry Wilson as the Coachman and Lisette

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fast-paced. A very funny farce.

ON THE RAZZLE refers to going on a binge...a wild and crazy party...a time to let loose. The story is a long chase, centering on the pair of shopworkers who go on a spree. In the play, a shopowner (Zangler portrayed by Reavley Gair), leaves his shop in the care of his two employees (Weinberl and Christopher) and goes off to Vienna in an attempt to wine and dine his fiancée, Madame Knorr. Before he leaves, however, Zangler feels that he must protect his

niece (Marie) from some rascal named Sonders. Sonders is sincerely in love with Marie, and he wants them to run away together. Zangler sends Marie to Miss Blumenblatt's, his sister-in-law, for her own protection.

This is the build-up, now for the difficult part: Zangler hires a manservant, Melchior, to go on ahead and reserve a table for Zangler and Madame Knorr (for her birthday celebration). Sonders overhears that Marie is to be sent off to Miss Blumenblatt's and goes after her to Vienna. Weinberl and Christopher are both promoted by Zangler and given more responsibility, since he will be getting married and won't have as much time to attend to the shop.

Weinberl and Christopher are ecstatic, but Weinberl feels a little down-hearted because he thinks that he is missing out on something...he feels that he missed his adventurous youth from which he should (when he is old and gray) be able to draw great stories. Weinberl feels that he should be able to exclaim, *Ohhhh, I was a gay dog once...OOOHHHH, I remember once...but Christopher (he implores) I have nothing to remember!* Weinberl and Christopher convince each other that they should go to Vienna and go 'on the razzle'.

Now, everyone is in Vienna, everyone is running from each other, everyone is extremely funny, and this builds to an exciting, very "pun"ny climax.

ON THE RAZZLE was written by Tom Stoppard, a popular British playwright, who most recently worked on the film *Brazil* with ex-Pythonist, Terry Gilliam. Stoppard adapted the play from a 19th century farce, entitled *Einen Jux will er sich*

macher, by Johann Nestroy, which is the same source or inspiration for Thornton Wilder's *The Matchmaker* and, therefore, *Hello, Dolly*.

John Ruganda, a graduate student of English at UNB directed the play. Ruganda is well known for his directorial skills, he most recently directed *Downtime* and in 1984, met with success with *The Island*.

WORKSHOP PRODUCTIONS is actually the production name used by a UNB English Course, English 2140. This class teaches the primary aspects of drama production. The class begins with concentration exercises, acting games (miming, etc) and leads up to a full blown theatre production at the end of the year. This is done to give the students first hand experience in theatre production. There are 14 students in the class, each has a role in the play and some have two. Set design, make-up, some props and all the usual behind-the-scenes work is taken care of by the students with assistance from Prof. Ed Mullaly, Prof. Reavley Gair (who portrayed Zangler). As well, bagpipes are piped by Andy Rogers and the lighting is handled by Pat Prall.

There are some particularly memorable performances, most notable, in my opinion, Melchior, a very convincing portrayal of a manservant who is a little more than he claims to be, and Christopher, an innocent soul in the big city of Vienna, (where all the women are twenty-two).

I would urge all who attend to listen carefully to each line, e... blink and you'll miss a gem of puns. The play is loaded with plays-on-words.

In closing, I strongly recommend that everyone who enjoys a good laugh attend either



Steve Reid as Melchior

tonight's or tomorrow night's show. *ON THE RAZZLE* will be performed at 8:00 PM at Memorial Hall on the UNB campus. Tickets are available at the door.

A great cast, a top-notch director and a witty play make up, to quote one of the characters, a 'classic'.

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