

Carolina!

Gay issues hit stage with Puppet Regime

By LUPE EYDE
Staff Writer

Puppet Regime, a USC experimental theater group, is participating in Columbia's first Stages of Spring Theatre Festival with a presentation of two one-act plays, "Forget Him" and "A Poster of the Cosmos."

Directed by Dewey Scott-Wiley, each play takes a different view on relationships. "Forget Him" is a fast-paced laugh at Michael's (Stann Gwynn) dissatisfaction with his lover, Eugene (Richard Blair), and how Michael wants his money back from Marlowe (Hunter Boyle), a professional match-maker.

Eugene is perfect in every way except that he's deaf and blind, and Michael can't help but think that maybe somewhere the man of his dreams is waiting to find him.

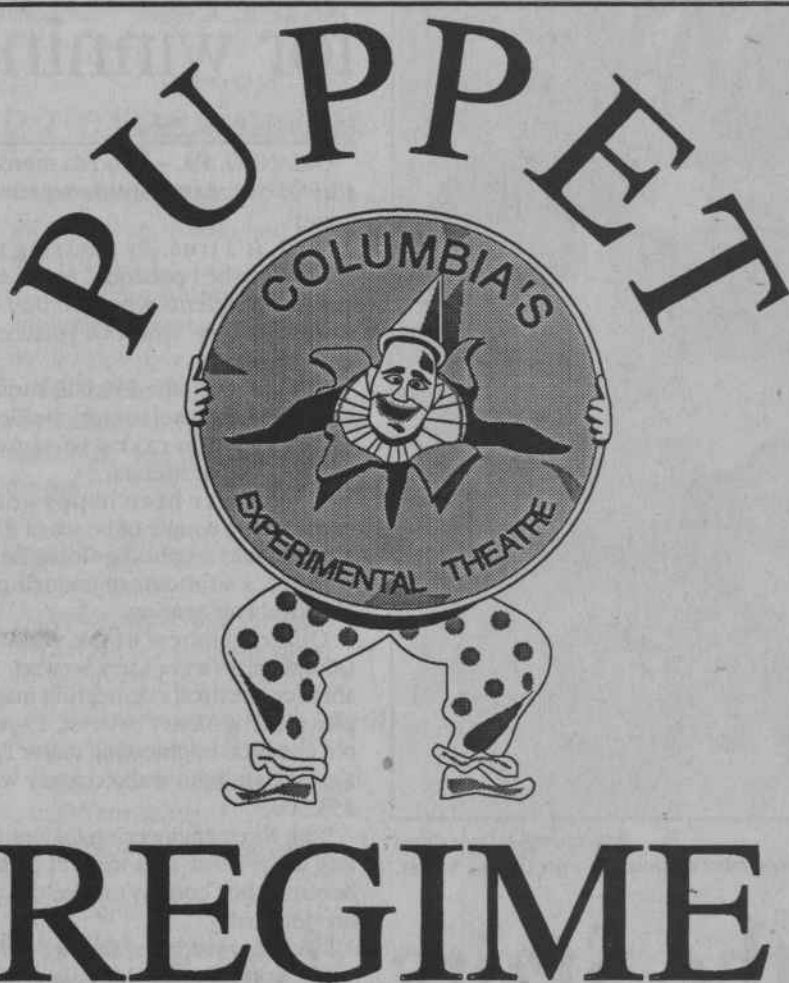
Despite the play's comedic nature, "Forget Him" actually has a message, which is best described by Scott-Wiley: "As human beings, we put too

much weight on our expectations. We spend so much of our time looking for something, rather than looking at something. After all, the only reality we have is now...this moment. Anything else is an expectation."

Richard Blair goes from playing deaf and blind Eugene to playing Tom in "A Poster of the Cosmos," a one-man drama about the death of Tom's best friend and lover to AIDS. It's a startling switch from the levity of the first play, the impact of which leaves you thinking.

Puppet Regime and many other local theaters are part of Columbia's Stages of Spring. The festival, which is designed to promote area theatrical traditions, will run throughout April with simultaneous performances at different theaters.

"Forget Him" and "A Poster of the Cosmos" will be performed at 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday at Benson Theatre. Tickets are \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students.



REGIME

Hepatitis B bigger threat to students than earlier thought

By JENNY MCINTYRE

I was talking to a friend the other day, and she said she'd been offered the Hepatitis B vaccination through work. Then she looked at me and said, "So what is Hepatitis B anyway?"

I was lost for an answer. (And most of you might know that's rare.) Because I work in the Thomson Student Health Center, and sexually transmitted diseases are an interest area of mine, I probably understand more about them than the average person.

However, I felt I needed to consult a community expert, so I called DHEC and hunted down Dr. Robert Ball, an all-around great guy and influential person in the "Infectious Diseases" arena.

As he was talking about needlestick rates, soft and hard data and using a lot of other words and phrases that made my head spin, I started wondering how to translate this useful (but not user-friendly) information into something people could read and understand.

So I asked, "Dr. Ball, what does the average person need to know?" Here's his answer:

HEALTH

■ Hepatitis B is transmitted through sexual contact, in blood/blood products, vertically (mother to child in utero) and through close household contact with an infected person. This differs from Hepatitis A, which is transmitted by contaminated foods/surfaces, known as the fecal-oral route.

■ Hepatitis B has no cure. Some people contract HBV, and six months later, it's gone. Some people become chronic carriers, always able to infect others and at a greater risk for cirrhosis or liver cancer.

■ Still others may suffer from chronic liver disease as a result of having Hepatitis B. You never know how you are going to react or if you're going to react. Some people only know they have Hepatitis B by having a blood test.

■ The risk of contracting Hepatitis B from a single exposure is about 100 times greater than contracting HIV from a single exposure, or a one-in-

three chance per single exposure. But like Ball said, "If you have multiple exposures, the law of averages will catch up with you."

(He also said the definition of promiscuity is one more partner than you or I have had already, but that's not completely relevant to this discussion.)

■ There is a vaccine for Hepatitis B. It involves three shots given over a six-month period. The Center for Disease Control recommends vaccinations for the population at risk, i.e., health-care workers, children and anyone sexually active or who may become sexually active.

The health center offers the Hepatitis B vaccination at \$35 per dose, or \$105, which is below the cost of an adult vaccination in the community. A vaccination can reduce your risk of contracting Hepatitis B from one in three to one in 100.

So why should you care? Hepatitis B cases are growing rapidly among adolescents and college students, just like other STDs. You can catch Hepatitis B the same way you catch other STDs. And you can reduce your risk the same way you do with other

STDs: abstinence, monogamy and condoms. You know the drill.

The CDC, in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, says education is the key to reducing exposure through unprotected sexual intercourse and drug use. But education alone won't do it, as evidenced by the continued high rate of exposure. People have to accept that they are susceptible, and unfortunately this awareness is often accompanied by a positive test result.

There are no easy answers to the "whys" of sexually transmitted diseases, including Hepatitis B. But there is an easy answer to the "how," and better answers still to the "how not to..."

If you are interested in helping educate other students on the topic of sexuality issues, apply to be a Peer Sexuality Educator. PSE recruitment will continue through April 20. Call 777-8248 for details, or stop by Health and Wellness Programs for an application.

Jenny McIntyre is a graduate assistant with Health and Wellness Programs.

Datebook

Wednesday, April 13

College of Journalism peer advising, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Coliseum lobby.

"What Can I Do With a Major in... Philosophy?" 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Gambrell 152.

Beta Alpha Psi social, 5:30 p.m., followed by meeting at Ernst and Young (1611 Devonshire Drive) at 6 p.m. Topic is "Stress in the Workplace." Wear professional dress. 544-0396.

Shag lessons in the Golden Spur, 6:30 p.m.

College Republicans, 8 p.m., Gambrell 250.

Spring Fling Days begin with Special Programs Olympics all day on Greene Street with human bowling, the velcro wall and more.

Icehouse beer and Rock 93.5-FM present karaoke day at The No Brainer, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Donations of \$2 per song or joke benefit Connections for Youth, a non-profit organization that assists runaway, homeless and at-risk youth. Prizes will be donated by area merchants. Call Jean at 256-3637.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas," 9 p.m., RH Theater.

"Heavy Metal," 11 p.m., RH Theater.

Thursday, April 14

Housing signup for women wanting different room in different building, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., RH Ballrooms B and C. 777-4283.

Spring Fling events from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Greene Street include airwalk volleyball, sumo wrestling, sonic splash zoomball, a limbo contest, food and prizes.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas," 9 p.m., RH Theater.

Monday, April 18

College of Journalism peer advising, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Coliseum lobby.

Free salsa dance lessons by instructor Ernesto Cuccalon, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., Golden Spur.

Pink Floyd's "The Wall," 9 p.m., RH patio.

Friday, April 15

Housing signup for men wanting different room in different building, 8 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., RH Ballrooms B and C. 777-4283.

College of Journalism peer advising, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., Coliseum lobby.

Spring Fling events from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Greene Street include airwalk volleyball, sumo wrestling, sonic splash zoomball, a limbo contest, food and prizes.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas," 9 p.m., RH Theater.

"Heavy Metal," 11 p.m., RH Theater.

Beta Alpha Psi field trip to Policy Management Systems, 10309 Wilson Blvd., Blythewood. Wear professional dress. 544-0396.

Weekly Meetings

■ Sundays, Ballroom Dancing Club, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., P.E. Center.

■ Mondays, Bible Study, 6:50 p.m., Baptist Student Union, 700 Pickens St.

■ Mondays and Wednesdays, free income tax assistance, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., RH lobby. 777-4710.

■ Tuesdays, gay, lesbian and bisexual students support group, 4:30 p.m., Counseling Center.

■ Tuesdays, Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, 8 p.m., Humanities 403.

■ Tuesdays and Thursdays, free tutoring for accounting students, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., BA 402. 777-4710.

■ Wednesdays, Student Outreach (USC admissions recruitment program), 5:30 p.m., Lieber College. Call Leigh Stoen at 777-4080.

■ Wednesdays, College Republicans, 8 p.m., Gambrell 250. Call Eric Dell at 926-7902 or Chip Payne at 750-5162.

■ Wednesdays, Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association, 8 p.m., Gambrell 402.

■ Thursdays, Common Ground, 4:30 p.m., RH 203.

■ Thursdays, RHA, 7 p.m., RH 305. Call Rebekah at 544-2109.

■ Thursdays, "Heart to Heart," 7 p.m., Baptist Student Union, 700 Pickens St.

Saturday, April 16

Outdoor benefit for the Women's Shelter, noon to 7 p.m., Immaculate Consumption, 933 S. Main St. Live music by Marlee McLeod, The Losers and The Drovers, as well as food and drinks. Tickets are \$5 plus a canned food item. 779-4706.

The deadline for Datebook is two days before publication date. Submissions are free and printed according to available space.

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Friday, April 15, 1994
3:00 - 5:00 pm, HESC 103

School of Public Health
Sumter and Greene Streets
777-7353