

Marathon presents four plays an hour

BY LINDA ANN CHONK
STAFF WRITER

David MacGregor says Heartland Theatre Company's Play by Play marathon is suited to our remote control mentality. If you don't like one of the 23 short plays coming to Oakland University's Studio Theatre Saturday, May 3 - wait 10 minutes. There's sure to be something you'll enjoy seeing whether it's a play focusing on an Eskimo myth to a story about two dogs and a cat.



Tom Aston directs actors Rick Carver (left), Adam Barnowski (in the tree) and Michelle Walker in *Up a Tree*, a short play by Marianne Poulin. The work is one of 23 in Heartland Theatre Company's Play by Play marathon.

PLAY BY PLAY

What: A marathon of 23 short plays by local, regional and international authors

When: Noon to midnight Saturday, May 3

Where: Studio Theatre in Varner Hall, Oakland University, Rochester

Tickets: \$5 per hour, \$40 all day pass, available at the door. For more information, visit www.heartlandco.com or call (248) 642-4838

ent support for writers. We're all contributing our services for the fund-raiser so they can continue their work. We're fortunate to have them in Michigan." Matt Siadak couldn't agree more. "The Rochester Hills resident began writing plays after taking a class with Birmingham playwright Kitty Dubin at Oakland University. One of her plays is also fea-

tured in the marathon. Dubin's plays have been performed at Jewish Ensemble Theatre. Three of her one acts are currently featured in *Could This Be Love?* continuing through Sunday May 11, at Trinity House Theatre in Livonia. Siadak's *Honey Sweet X's and O's* is a comedy about a woman who can't get her boyfriend to say "I love you."

"I'm so grateful something like this is going on. It recharges your artistic energy," said Siadak who graduated from Oakland University with bachelor's degree in performing arts. "As an actor you can sense when people are laughing but as a playwright it's tough."

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"It's an attractive venue for emerging and established playwrights," said MacGregor. "I'm interested to hear people's comments afterward. I'm trying something different. There's no story, no plot, no resolution of conflict just 18 separate conversational fragments. It ends with a phone call from one of the gal's wives. She asks what did you talk about and he says nothing. Women think men only talk about sex and cars but the audience will have to find out for themselves what they really talk about."

For guidelines and deadlines for submissions visit the Web site at www.heartlandco.com.

PROMOTING NEW WORKS

"It's non-traditional theater as far as we have no season," said Radcliff. "We're here to promote new works for stage. In addition to the marathon we're holding a play writing retreat May 30 at Oakland University in Rochester. We want to nurture and promote local playwrights. 13 of 23 plays are by Michigan writers. There are four plays an hour except for one hour that's shorter to allow for a (6:30 p.m.) pot luck reception at which everyone's welcome. Each play is done twice. Come at noon and see all the plays, or come at 6:30 p.m. You can buy tickets by the hour or a full day pass for \$40."

"There are dramas, comedies, satires, realistic, more theatrical and device driven. There are short plays, some more like skits. It's a great showcase for writers, actors, directors. We encourage people to come. We don't generally recommend the day for children because there are some adult themes."

Tom Aston's directing a play as well as watching from the wings as a scene from a play

zation founded to promote emerging writers as well as established local writers.

"We're having way too much fun with *Up a Tree*," said Aston, of Pontiac resident and coordinator of the music, theater and dance department at Oakland University. "The play is extremely physical. I'm working with actors I worked with before in Ensemble Theatre Company, a troupe I founded and had for 20 years."

"*Long Morning Since* is the first scene of a play that's part of a trilogy in progress," said Aston who's been writing plays for 30 years. "This is the first time he submitted a play for the marathon. His works have been performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and at Ford Auditorium with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra."

"It explores the nature of integrity in a family and is about a photographer who leaves home without making peace with her past and returns when her mom becomes seriously ill. I started writing the play and the women wouldn't stop talking. I'm really committed to what Heartland Theatre is doing for writers in the state of Michigan. It's the only consis-

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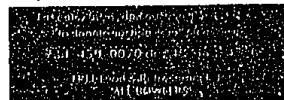
Bolin Memorial Award

In cooperation with the Lela Superior State University Foundation

Saturday, May 17, 2003

4:00 P.M. Registration begins at 3:00 P.M.
Drakeshire Lanes, Farmington Hills, MI

Join us to raise money and celebrate the life of Lech Marie Bolin. ALL proceeds go to the Memorial Award fund.



Lech Marie Bolin

On August 18, 2001 Lech Marie was killed in an auto accident at age 23. It was determined that she suffered an epileptic seizure while driving to work. Lech had dealt with epilepsy since third grade but had been seizure free with medication for many years. Her death came just two weeks prior to her beginning her junior year at Lela Superior State University in South St. Marie, Michigan.

In honor of her spirit and determination, the Bolin family has endowed the Lech Marie Bolin Memorial Award, a fund that helps students with academic and physical problems, are unable to meet the rigid academic standards. Criteria have been established to allow these students to receive a \$1,000 award per year for up to four years as long as they are making progress toward their degree.

With the support of friends and family, our goal is to raise over \$100,000 in order to allow four students to participate in the program each academic year.

Silent Auctions End: 8:00 pm, 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm

Single bowlers will be placed with a team.

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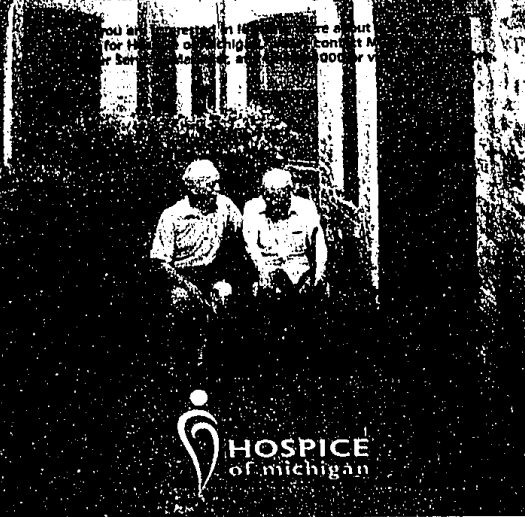
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