

Sharon Barrow, who is the company's business manager, Weldon and Dowling founded the group. Dowling "lit the spark to the whole thing," Barrow said.

Barrow had played Lady Anne in the Aggie Players' production of Richard III. Dowling was involved in the production, and Weldon played Richard.

The three went from there to form Texas Actor's Theater "so we could perform plays that we wanted to do," Barrow said.

Weldon said that one purpose of the company is to offer a choice in drama for the College Station area, and to present the kinds of plays that StageCenter and the Aggie Players can't present.

"We are continuing in the tradition of 'off-off Broadway,' which is experimental drama that was often first performed in churches and cafes in Greenwich Village," Weldon said.

Although these particular plays were first done 15 years ago, "they are experimental for this area," Weldon said.

"Sam Shepard won the Pulitzer Prize last year," Weldon said. "We chose to do some of the earlier pieces, which present a kind of revolution in dramatic structures."

One revolutionary aspect of Shepard's plays is that there is no real plot structure, Weldon said; the plays are more poetic or musical than narrative.

"These plays are poetic, and some people might say they are also very vulgar," Weldon said. "To be perfectly honest about it, these are not the kind of plays that your mother and my mother would be comfortable seeing."

"But this company is built on no censorship, so we don't have to be careful. Except in the sense that we have to put on a good show."

Barrow is directing "Chicago" and "Rock Garden" as a project in her Techniques of Directing class. It will be the first time she has directed the company.

"It is a challenge to do a play analysis on contemporary drama which is experimental," Barrow said. "It's all acting, with very little setting. We battle, and come up with weird poetry."

The current production will feature, in addition to Weldon, Barrow and Stimson, and Monica Fernandez, who has been active in the San Antonio Little Theater, and Steve Thomas. Both are Texas A&M students.



Richard Moore and Steve Thomas in the Sam Shepard play "Rock Garden."

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Richard Moore, a former DJ at radio station KTAM, performs in a scene from "Rock Garden."

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