

Photo by Bob Sebree

David Troxell, Kyle Owen, Matthew McClung and Sid Catlett star as executives of the General Products Company in the satirical play "Solid Gold Cadillac."

'Solid Gold' play begins run

By KATHLEEN McELROY

Battalion Reporter

These Texas A&M University students could have been partying or catching up on missed sleep on Friday night, but instead they were working as hard as ever.

Studying may stop on the weekend, but the show must go on.

The students were rehearsing for "The Solid Gold Cadillac," the next Theater Arts Section play, which opens tonight at 8 p.m. in the Rudder Forum.

Robert Wenck, director of the show, was holding the Friday rehearsals not to spite the crew, but out of necessity.

"The cast has been very good to work with," he said Monday. "We've had some good rehearsals."

"The only problem was putting it together in three weeks — actually only 24 days, a little shorter than most productions."

He had such a short time to produce the play because the department tries to present two plays a semester and still give the students some time to act like normal Aggies.

The students didn't mind the Friday rehearsal, but were definitely aware it wasn't just a Wednesday night.

"Please don't talk to me, I know it's Friday," David Troxell said. But like the typical student of the theater, he was philosophical about being there.

"It's love," he asserts. "It's art ... it's THEATER!"

Most of the other students were less dramatic about Friday night rehearsal, but agreed with him.

"This is what I'm in theater for," Victorina Martinez explains. "For theater life, it's normal."

The rehearsal may be normal, but the play definitely isn't. "Solid Gold Cadillac" is about the prototype Little Old Lady who takes on a giant corporation, General Products Company. Its motto: "If we don't make it, there's no money in it."

Written by Howard Teichmann and George S. Kaufman, the play enjoyed a 66-week run on Broadway and was just as successful on the road.

The actors say they enjoy this play, which in spite of its storyline, attempts no social significance.

"This is a lot of fun," Martinez said. "It's a unique comedy. I'm having a good time doing it."

Wenck understands that even though they may be enjoying the work, all this rehearsal could hurt the students, both academically and socially.

"Some it does, some it doesn't," he said commenting on the hurting of grades. "It depends on the individual."

"It definitely cuts down on the social life."

The cast has only had two days off, spending three or four hours

each night on rehearsals. Wenck also said some of the actors participating in other productions have as many as three sets of lines in their heads. So they don't mind the extra rehearsal for polishing their acts.

And some of the students even get a little more from the rehearsals.

"The best thing is I have a date

with someone in the cast after the rehearsal," Chip Washabaugh said. "It's called making the best of the situation."

"Solid Gold Cadillac" opens tonight and runs through Nov. 15, and will run again Nov. 20 through Nov. 22.

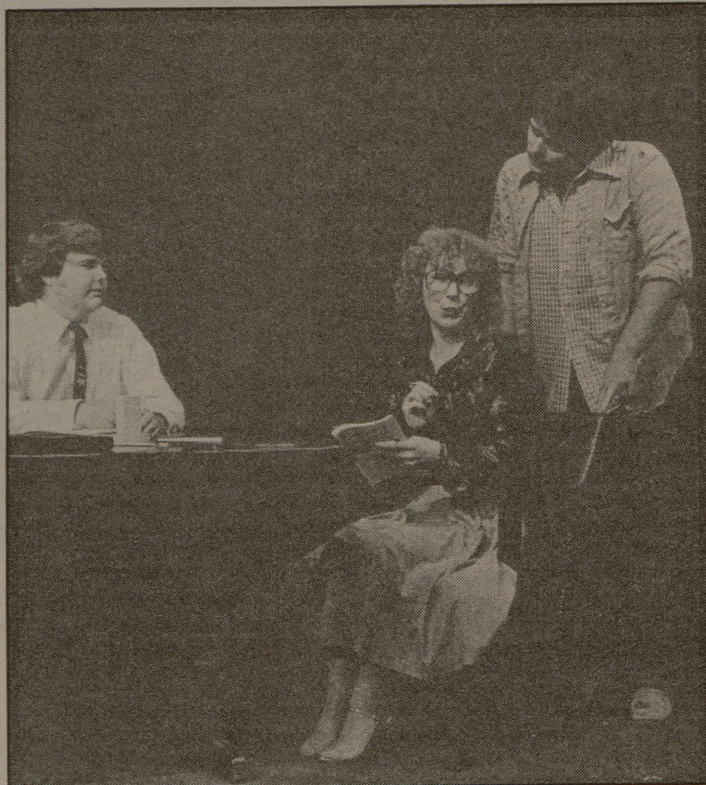


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Sharron Barrow plays the little old lady who challenges the system.

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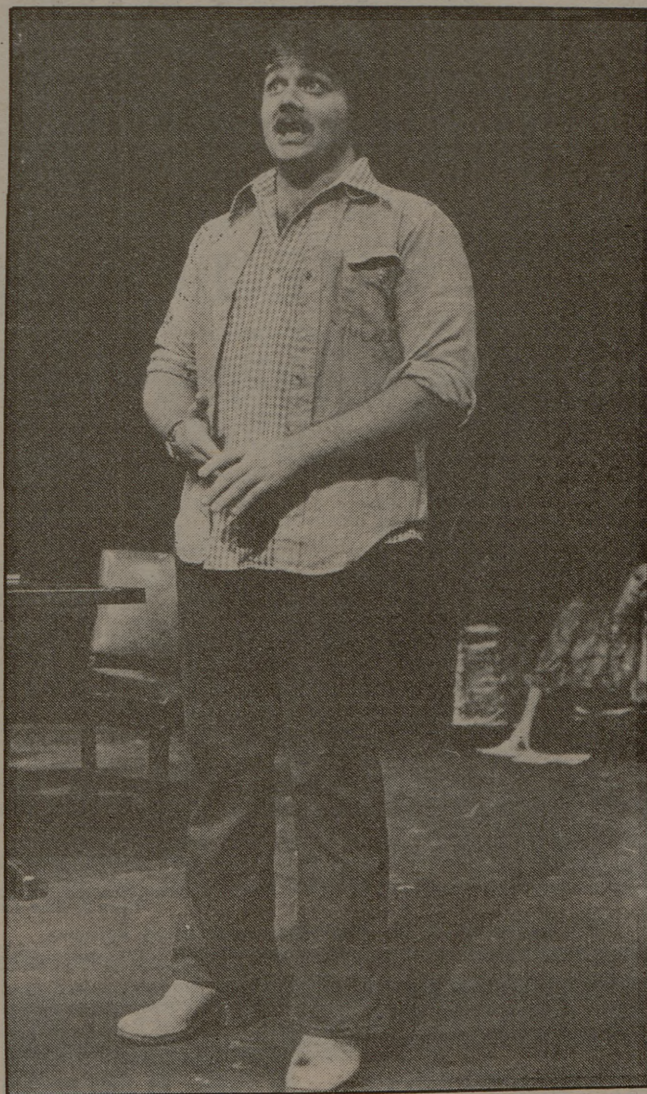


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Sid Catlett portrays an executive of the General Products Company. The company's motto is "If we don't make it, there's no money in it."



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