

'Summer in Smoke' to play here

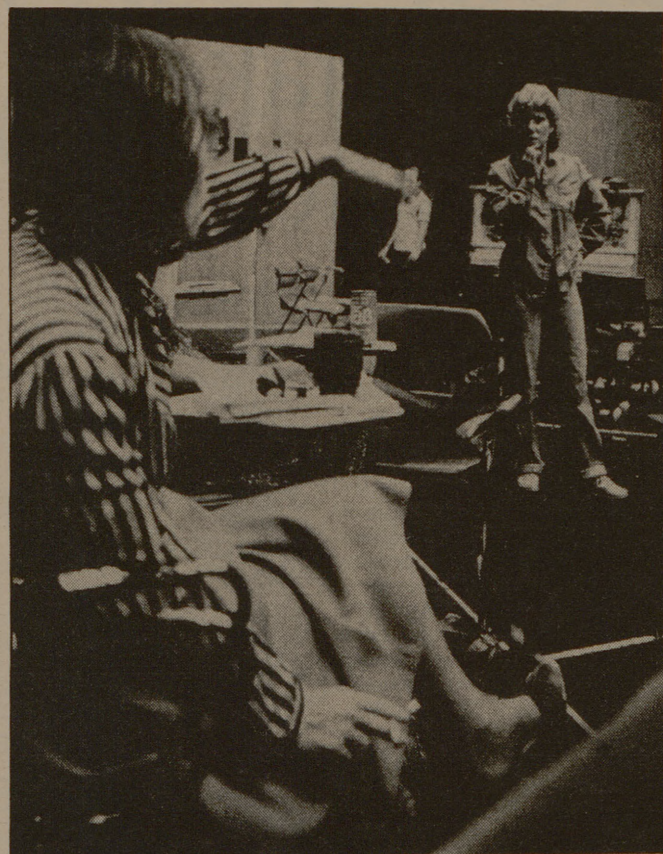


photo by Dean Saito

Director of "Summer and Smoke" Maryanne Mitchell, left, and Donna Gough, who plays Mrs. Bassett in the play, rehearsing a scene.

by Clara N. Hurter
Battalion reporter

The Texas A&M theater arts program will present Tennessee Williams' play "Summer and Smoke" Thursday in Rudder Forum. The cast also will perform the play in December for the American Collegiate Theatre Festival in Lubbock.

Members of the theater arts program, part of the Texas A&M English Department, think the play will be well received by festival competition judges and the Texas A&M audience, says publicity supervisor and cast member Gay Culbertson.

Texas A&M has a good chance to win some awards, Culbertson says.

"We've always done really good individually," he says. "Our costume designer, for example, has won awards at the competition in the past."

Culbertson expects good attendance at the Texas A&M debut.

"We're really pushing to get college and high school English students to come watch the play," he says.

The cast includes six main characters: Wendy Pesek as

Alma Winemiller, Richard Strayer as Dr. John Buchanan Jr., Becky Hernandez as Rosa Gonzales, Gay Culbertson as Mr. Gonzales, Peck Phillips as Dr. John Buchanan Sr., and Marc Gessner as the Rev. Winemiller.

"Summer and Smoke" will embroil you in the turbulent lives of small-town citizens who lived during the 1900s. The plot revolves around a love affair between Alma Winemiller and John Buchanan Jr.

Alma Winemiller and John Buchanan Jr. have grown up together in a small Mississippi town. When Buchanan Jr. returns to the town after receiving his doctoral degree, he and Alma Winemiller fall in love. But Buchanan Jr. has turned into a drunken scoundrel, and Alma Winemiller is conservative and nervous. The two discover they are too opposite in nature to ever marry.

While Alma Winemiller and Buchanan Jr. are struggling with their relationship, Buchanan Jr. meets ambitious Rosa Gonzales, the town sleaze, and they have an affair. Rosa Gonzales's father is the owner of the town whorehouse and gambling casino. Rosa and Buchanan Jr. plan to run away together, but they end

their affair when Mr. Gonzales shoots and kills Buchanan Sr.

Buchanan Jr. in turn decides to marry Nellie, one of Alma Winemiller's piano students. And Alma Winemiller meets ... well, enjoy the surprise ending.

The three-hour play will be performed at the festival Dec. 1 to 3.

Crew and cast members currently are building stage sceneries and rehearsing for the play scheduled to run at 8 p.m. Thursday to Nov. 12 and Nov. 17 to 19 in Rudder Forum.

Assistant English professor Maryanne Mitchell is the director, Susy Charleton is the costume designer, and Alan Donahue is designing the sets and lights.

The crew is composed of Culbertson, sound supervisor Betsy Arnett, props supervisor Peck Phillips, lights supervisor Lisa Ramsey, scenery shop foreman Donna Gough, costume supervisor Liz Smith, and set supervisor Allen Rudolph.

Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office (845-1234) for \$3 per student and \$4 for non-students. A special group discount for groups of 10 is available.

Production group to continue concerts

by Angel Stokes
Battalion staff

Now that the dust — literally — has settled at the Heavy Metal Coliseum, Roadrunner Productions is ready to try again.

Last Saturday night Joe "King" Carrasco performed the debut concert for the Heavy Metal Coliseum, located at the corner of Highways 6 and 21. The Coliseum is a renovated warehouse with dirt floors and no indoor restroom facilities.

But, Kevin Bomar and Terry Dossey, two of the partners in Roadrunner Productions, say that next time there won't be any dust and better restroom facilities soon will be available. Plans to add bleachers along the sides also are planned, Bomar says.

The concert's major flaw was no sound check for Rackitt — a local band that opened the concert — and Carrasco, Dossey says.

"Carrasco showed up late," he says, "so there wasn't time to do everything."

Because Rackitt is a rock band and Carrasco is more new wave, the musical contrast was odd.

The performance was Rackitt's first public appearance.

"If we had known that the crowd would be so into new wave," says Dossey, who is lead guitarist for Rackitt, "we might not have opened for Carrasco."

Rackitt's show was cut short because of the late start, he says. Also the on-stage monitoring mix was bad, he says, but for a last minute job the lights and sound turned out OK.

Although the concert wasn't a financial success because of several one-time expenses like building a stage, Dossey says, Roadrunner is confident about having another concert.

"We need to build up a reputation," he says, "and we really expected a first-time loss."

"Every show isn't a winner, but as promoters we must continue with the job," Bomar says, "it's part of the game." Now it's time to book as many acts as possible to build up a reputation among musicians.

Food and drinks for the concert was provided by Fish Richard's Inc.

Problems with the Texas Alco-

holic Beverage Commission occurred when some minors were caught with beer, Dossey says. But Roadrunner doesn't handle that part of the concerts; Fish Richard's had the beer license, he says. Future ways to prevent alcohol consumption by minors, he says, will be to double card and also spot card.

Not many problems occurred with security, Dossey says, because the off-duty Bryan police did a good job at keeping people from the backstage area.

"The roadies got pretty excited when the stage got busted in a few places," Dossey says, "but they managed to keep people out."

Carrasco was chosen to open the Coliseum for two reasons, he says. One is the money — Carrasco is cheaper to get and has been here before. Also, Roadrunner doesn't have any credibility yet.

Although the facilities still are primitive compared to places in Austin, Houston and Dallas, Bomar says bands will enjoy playing at the Coliseum because the atmosphere is 'laid back.'

Earlier negotiations for bands included Loverboy, ZZ Top and Sammy Hagar. Loverboy turned

down Roadrunner because they weren't interested in the area market, Bomar says. He says Loverboy's Houston show wasn't a sell-out and that probably was part of the reason.

ZZ Top and Sammy Hagar still are possibilities, he says. ZZ Top is hard to get, he says, because they currently are a very hot item. Hagar will be in the

area in June, so there's still a possibility to get him.

Rackitt and Texas Unlimited — another local band — are set for Nov. 11 or 12. Tentative price is \$6 with free beer included in the price.

George Strait, Foghat and The Producers also are in the works, Bomar says.

Injury causes Tubes concert to be canceled

The Tubes, scheduled to perform at Texas A&M on Nov. 11, have canceled the concert because of an injury to the group's lead singer.

Fee Waybill, lead singer for the San Francisco-based group, suffered a broken leg and is unable to perform.

"We were excited about the show," said Lisa Boteler, MSC Town Hall public relations

chairman. "We're really disappointed."

The band recently has experienced success with the single "She's A Beauty" and the newer single "Tip Of My Tongue" from its latest album "Outside Inside."

No plans are being made to reschedule the show, part of the Tubes North American tour.