

DOUDNA FINE ARTS CENTER | PLAY

Comedy to time-travel through issues

By Allie Fiedler
Staff Reporter

A time-traveling play directed by Eastern students, covering issues of sex and roles in society, will be performed this week.

"Cloud 9" will open at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Black Box Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Shows will continue at 7:30 p.m. each night through Saturday, with a final show at 2 p.m. Sunday. "Cloud 9" is being student-directed by Andrew Swanson, a senior theatre arts major, and Miranda Buob, a senior theatre arts and English major.

Swanson said "Cloud 9" is a complex story.

"It's not one of those lighthearted, fluffy shows where you can check your brain at the door; there's a little more to it," Swanson said.

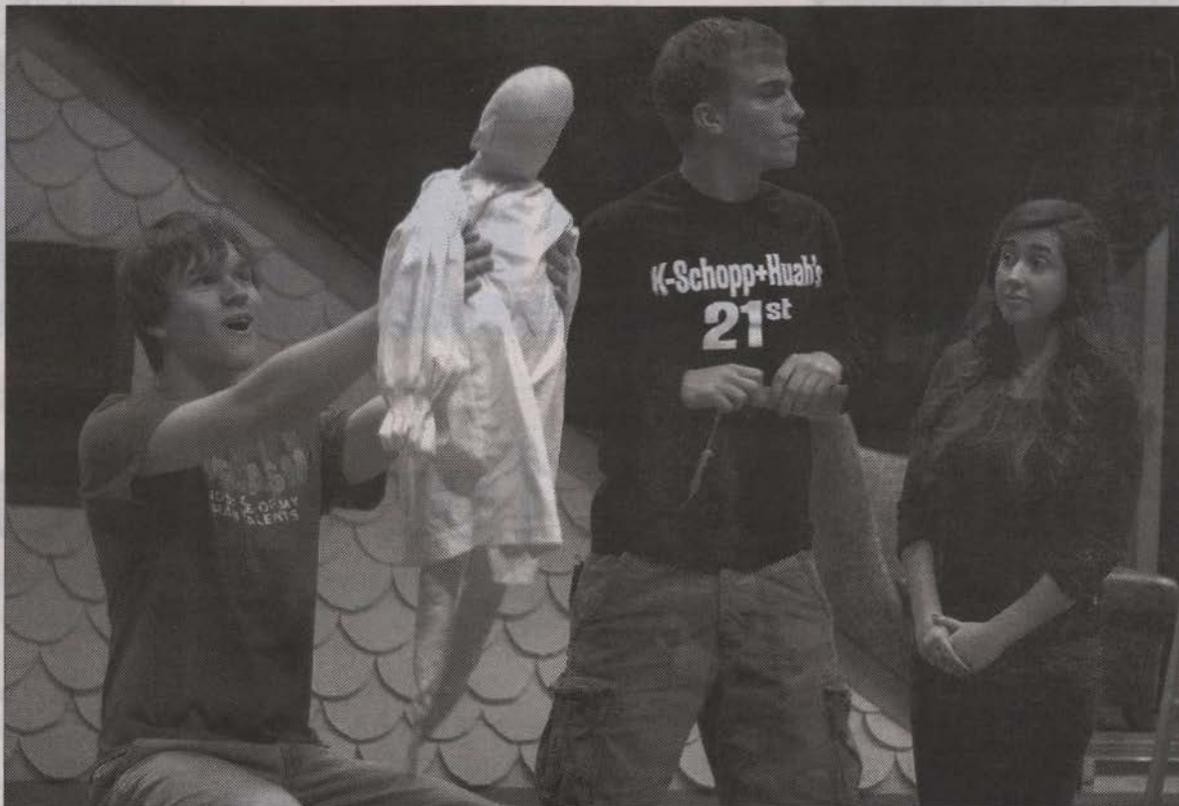
He also said it is the type of show that will make the audience think and question their own beliefs and their society.

The play is challenging because it takes place in two different time periods, Swanson said. The first act takes place in the 1800s and the second act takes place in the 1900s.

Swanson said even though "Cloud 9" was written in the late-1970s, it is extremely relevant because it touches on issues important today, such as gay marriage and equality for women.

"The first act of the play pokes fun at society and its beliefs and values during the Victorian Empire," Swanson said.

Chris Kesler, who will be playing the roles of Harry and Martin, said the first part of the play shows a perfect family in Africa, and as the story unfolds, the family shows they are not as



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Clire, played by Dakota McDaniels, talks to a doll while Betty, played by Jake Cole, and Mrs. Saunders, played by Shelby White, watch during a rehearsal of "Cloud 9" on Thursday in the Black Box Theatre of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. The first show is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Black Box Theatre.

perfect as they appear.

Kesler, a freshman theatre arts major, said the second act takes place in a more modern England and demonstrates a variety of different relationships among the characters and how they are changing.

"I feel like it is a lot about love and finding the true meaning of what it is to live," Kesler said.

Swanson said the play revolves around the theme of moving out of the brands that might be given to people.

"It's about stereotypes and sexual

identity and breaking away from those labels that society puts on you," Swanson said.

He said the audience can expect to get a good laugh, and although it does touch on some touchy subjects, it is done in a lighthearted way.

Bill Stinde, who will be playing the role of Cathy and Joshua, said the main thing he hopes people will take away from this play is to be themselves and to not let people put them into boxes.

Shelby White, who will be playing the

role of Ellen, Mrs. Saunders and Betty, said she hopes the play will influence the audience to think about current issues in society, such as gay marriage.

Stinde, a senior theatre arts major, said he was drawn to the play for a variety of reasons.

"It is really interesting, has a lot of different layers and commentary on a lot of different things," Stinde said.

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