"Our Town" more than an ordinary show

By JEN BISCHOFF
Scene Reporter

The theater production of the play "Our Town" will open Oct. 3 in the Lied Center for Performing Arts. Auditions took place the first full week of classes and rehearsals began right away.

Director Bill Hutson said, "They were the best choices for each individual role."

This is not the first time Hutson has been involved with this play. As a sophomore in college, he played the role of George and in graduate school was the Stage Manager.

"It's about a small town, but Wilder uses that plot to show a larger community," Hutson said. The characters in this play are involved in every ordinary, every-day activities and much of it is pantomimed in order to make the audience see a larger picture of what's really going on."

Due to the fact that the play is largely pantomimed there is little use for props, which leaves the stage almost bare.

Senior theater major Josh Doucette plays the Stage Manager. Performing in "Our Town" will be a part of his BFA and senior thesis.

However, he said the main reason he is doing it is because he loves it.

His role is basically the narrator of the story, but with a more active role who also fills in for other roles during the play.

"It's more or less a guide throughout the play, but at the same time posing more questions to the audience," said Doucette. "It's played very casual but there's a lot of meaning behind what he is saying."

Though the play seems ordinary it provides so much more.

"It can be really beautiful if you give yourself as an audience member to the whole experience," said theater major Kathleen Lawler.

Lowler plays the role of the young girl Emily Webb on whom the play is mainly centered and who begins a relationship with George played by Josh Peyton.

"Much of the play deals with a romance and an ultimate marriage of a young couple and yet it is not all a bed or roses," said Hutson. "The play is not meant to be a "sob fest."

"I think it's one of the pinnacles of American theater... I think it's really rare that people go to a show and come out actually feeling something," said Lawler.