Comedy-drama to 'test boundaries of self, truth

By Kristin Moore
Staff Writer

The action in "Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean," "probes the problem of sincerity, belief and tests the boundaries between what one believes about oneself and truth," said Dr. Steve Peters, the play's director and also visiting assistant professor of theater.

The comedy-drama by Ed Graczyk will open Wednesday and play through Feb. 22 at the Interim Performing Arts Center. The Wednesday through Saturday performances will be at 8 p.m. and the Sunday performance will be at 2:30 p.m.

"Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" takes place in a rundown 5 & dime store in McCarthy, Texas.

20-year reunion

Five women return to the town for the 20-year reunion of the "Disciples of James Dean" — a fan club whose members share in the memory of the heartthrob of their youth.

Peters said the action of the play centers on Mona, played by Michelle Brockhaus (then) and Sonia Keffer (now). She is a dime-store clerk who once was selected to be in a crowd scene during the filming of "Giant" not far from her hometown.

"The play shifts back and forth from the present to the mid-50s when Mona was, for an instant, a star in her circle of friends," he said.

Peters said Mona and her close friends experience the changes that surface 20 years after their hero's death.

"The play examines the problem of change in the lives of each of the characters," Peters said.

'Radically different'

In addition, Peters said each character reacts radically different to change in their lives, as expectations, dreams, ambitions and possibilities that they believed in 20 years ago are contrasted with their realities 20 years later.

Completing the cast are Amy M. Harmon as Juanita and Jennifer L. Yarns and Susan Rowley as Sissy in 1955 and 1974 respectively. Other cast members include Jeff Beals as Joe, Kathleen Meier as Joanne, Rebecca M. Kellen as Stella May and Caroline Nichols as Edna Louise.

The show's sets will be designed and built by Tom Mazur with lighting by James Schumacher. Kathleen Connery will design the costumes.

Rehearsals for the play are approaching the final phase of dress rehearsals, beginning Sunday, Peters said.

'Challenging group'

"The cast of the play is really a very exciting and challenging group of people and I am confident their characterizations will be compelling for audiences," he said.

Peters comes to Creighton from Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos. His work as a director has most recently been seen in Omaha during the University of Nebraska at Omaha's staging of "Fefu and Her Friends."

Tickets for "Come Back to the 5 & Dime Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean" are available at the door and are $5 for the public and $3 for students and those with a Creighton

For reservations contact the perform arts box office at 280-2636.