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UD THEATRE
PRESENTS "MOONCHILDREN"

DAYTON, Ohio, March 19, 1982 -- The Performing and Visual Arts Department of the University of Dayton will perform Michael Weller's "Moonchildren" on April 1, 2, and 3 in Boll Theatre.

"Moonchildren" is a tragically funny portrayal of alienation as lived by a group of American college students.

The time is the late 60s--early 70s; the place is a student apartment in an American university town. The old refrigerator, the sink full of dirty dishes, and an elaborate stack of empty Pepsi bottles add to the kitchen's lived-in personality.

The story centers around the lives of seniors Mike (John Kovac), Cootie (Ed Springstead), Bob (Paul Harris), Kathy (Colleen Matthews), Ruth (Julie Emmert), Dick (Jess Pagnotta), and Norman (Phil DeFusco).

Mike and Cootie are brilliantly funny. Their well-mastered art of game playing seems to make the apartment a close-knit family, bound by the "carnival time" antics. The unraveling, however, is inevitable, for wit is not a substitution for feeling.

When everything is a joke, it's easier to laugh away the harsh realities of life. Bob, a self-conscious, sensitive musician, isn't able to tell even his girl friend Kathy that his mother died of cancer over the Christmas break.

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"Good old Bob. What's troubling good old Bob?" ask Mike and Cootie. But then again, who really cares? No effort is taken to find out what's troubling him. There is only one person that counts in most of our lives and at the loneliest of times, even that becomes questionable. Norman's wimpishness makes him the butt of many jokes. It takes a person like Dick to point out his irrelevancy. After all, mathematics is about as irrelevant as you can get. There is no room for character building here. Instead, Norman turns to Shelly (Jaye Liset), a girlfriend whose vocabulary seldom exceeds "oh, wow!" The only relevant thing to do, they decide, is to burn themselves in protest against the war in Vietnam.

For Mike and Cootie, life's problems don't amount to more than having enough peanut butter and marmalade sandwiches on a protest march. Minus the laughter, there is little difference in terms of relevancy.

It's graduation time, and as Ruth has said, they probably won't see each other again, except maybe at Christmas. As the masks momentarily fall away during awkward good-byes, strange faces do not allow for warm embraces. Living together for a year has not brought the moonchildren any closer.

"Moonchildren" is being directed by Robert J. Bouffier, S.M. It is a play for mature audiences, and like life, it contains profanity. Tickets are $1.75 for faculty, staff, and students, and $3.50 for the general public. For reservations, call 229-2545.