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NEWS

EAST TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Commerce, Texas 75428

Office of Information
Jack Gray, Jr., Director

Upon

Release Date: Receipt

Story by: John Self

Telephone: 468-2222

TICKETS FOR PLAYHOUSE FINALE
TO GO ON SALE APRIL 5 AT ETSU

COMMERCE, --Tickets for "Lovers," a play in two parts by Irish playwright Brian Friel, went on sale Wednesday (April 5) in the box office of the East Texas State University Playhouse.

Opening night, April 19 (Wednesday), will be a benefit performance with proceeds from ticket sales going to "Friends of the Commerce Public Library." Tickets for the opening night will be \$2.50.

Tickets for the remainder of the eight-day run will be \$1. A matinee is scheduled, Sunday (April 23), and there will be no night performance on that date.

Play director Nathan Wilson explained that tickets for all performances of the play can be reserved by calling the Playhouse Box Office at 468-2669.

Noting that the play is considered a two-part production, Wilson said the first half is entitled, "Winners," while the second half is obviously called "Losers."

"The first part is a simple yet touching story of young lovers who find they must plan their future together for reasons you will learn when you see the play," he said.

He added that at the end of this segment, patrons will understand why Friel chose to call the young couple "Winners."

Explaining the second part of the Friel play, Wilson said, "This shows simultaneously the funny and heartbreaking existence of a middle-aged couple."

Wilson added, "They take marriage vows late in life and circumstances which alter their relationship causes us to think of them as losers in love."

While the story is about people in Ireland, Wilson asserted the play could apply to "anybody, anywhere at anytime because the situations are universal."

A veteran director of several ETSU playhouse productions, Wilson said "Lovers" is fun, springtime entertainment with lots of comedy."

Curtain time for nightly performances is 8 o'clock. -30-