

arts



LA-based troupe bridges link between theatre and film

by Chuck Foley

Sixformer UNLV students hope to make a film out of JoJo Todd's new stage comedy "Hot Tomatos," which they will perform Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.

The story centers around three wacky sisters and the men that drive them crazy.

The company is known as Studebaker Studios and was formed last spring in Los Angeles, said director Todd Tjaden, who holds an M.A. in acting from UNLV and an M.F.A. in directing from the University of New Orleans.

The goal is to have a play run its course in the theatre, he said, and then "take it next door (in their own production studio) and make a film out of it"

"With the proliferation of video and film today, it's clearly the direction that theatre has to go to flourish," said Tjaden, one of the founders of the troupe. Also in the company are: Teresa Gilmore, a former Irene Ryan award winner for Best Actress while at UNLV who has appeared in feature

roles in the films "Blaze," "Fever." "The Marrying Man" and "The Grifters;"

Julie Artman, who just completed a run with the Los Angeles Shakespeare Company in "Much Ado About Nothing," and has worked as an actor, director and acting coach/teacher in New York and LA: Riley Steiner, who has been featured in numerous TV commercials, including a regular stint on the "Silver Bullet Bar" for two years for Coors Lite. She also appeared opposite Celeste Holm in the Off-Broadway production of "When the Young Wine Blooms," and played Ophelia in Anthony Hopkins' production of "Hamlet."

Jane Hamilton, who appeared as Trixie in the film Ruby with Danny Aiello, and many leading roles in thrillers

such as Deranged, Bedroom Eyes II, Death Mask and If Looks Could Kill. She also appeared on stage in New York as Candy in JoJo Todd's "Dial S for Sex."

Kim McKamy, who will soon be seen in the film Indecent Proposal with Robert Redford, still lives in Las Vegas, but will soon join the company in Los Angeles. She has also had featured roles in films such as Creepazoids,

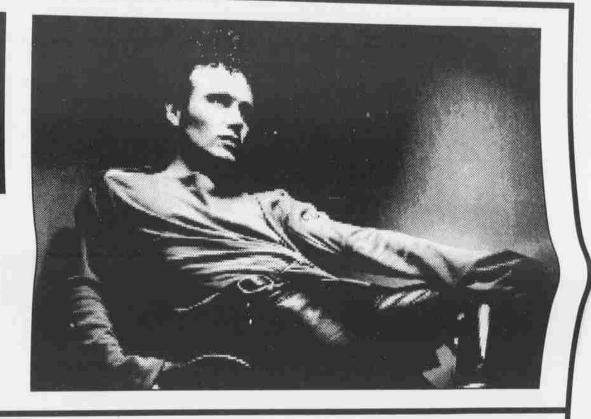
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