

Self training necessary for actor

By LAURIE MASSINGILL
UD Staff

The acting profession is quite obviously an unstable business. A business where a newcomer to the stage or screen can be an overnight sensation and fade away just as quickly.

But falling stars are common in the entertainment industry. Instant fame is not the way to make it big in acting.

It takes time, instruction, perseverance and a few lucky breaks to just make a living as an actor. Just ask a veteran of the business, Art Kassul.

"Years ago, they said 'do something else' because acting was a dodgy business," Kassul said. "But now you can make a living at it."

Kassul, the male lead of the Country Squire Dinner Theater production, "Move Over Mrs. Markham," has years enough in the business to give some pretty sound advice to potential actors.

"As an actor, you need to train yourself," Kassul said. "Decide what kind of actor



Art Kassul

you want to be. "In serious drama, get a good course of study behind you. And good acting lessons. Nothing can hurt you more than a bad teacher."

Kassul began his own study in acting with an ensemble group, the Actor's Company, in Chicago after WWII. He served with the Navy during the War and went to school on the G.I. Bill.

His original plans did not

include an acting career, though.

"I wanted to be a stand-up comic and I thought I'd be a better comic with some acting experience," Kassul said.

"When I was a kid, I learned jokes because I wasn't much of a conversationalist. That's how I paid my dues to be in the group. I was always ready with a joke."

But the jokes gave way to more serious acting once Kassul was in acting school. And he decided to switch over to stage performing. When the ensemble folded, Kassul moved to New York to pursue his career.

"I spent the next 10 years in New York, but nothing much happened there," Kassul said. "I moved back to Chicago, my hometown, in 1966. At the time, Chicago was the 16-millimeter capitol of the world. In other words, all the educational films, industrial and training films were made there."

In 1969, Kassul was the first recipient of the Joseph Jefferson Award for his portrayal of the father in the stage play,

"The Subject Was Roses." Although Kassul has worked in films and television, he feels he is most at home in the theater.

"I've done a lot of dinner theater," Kassul said. "Stage is where the acting is. That's the actor's media. In television and movies, it's the director's media or the filmmaker's media."

"You use less than 10 percent acting in a movie. On stage, you have to sustain a role for two hours. You have to learn lines and keep an audience interested in those lines. It's a challenge," he said.

For a change of pace, though Kassul occasionally agrees to do a musical.

"About eight or 10 years ago, I started doing musicals," Kassul said. "I'm not a trained singer, but the songs aren't that challenging. It's a matter of timing."

But one of the challenges of Kassul's versatile career is

adjusting from role to role and medium to medium.

"I find the changes refreshing," Kassul said. "In a farce like this play ('Move Over Mrs. Markham'), the laughs have to be sharp and clean. It doesn't take much to get into the show."

"In a drama, you're draining yourself a lot more. It takes longer to get over. You feel emotionally drained because you've had to dig so deep."

Kassul said that the ability to change roles and give your best in each role is the essence of acting. It takes that dedication to make it in acting, he said.

"What you give had better be 100 percent," Kassul said. "If it's not, the directors won't buy it. It better be solid or they won't help you develop it."

This applies particularly to directors in Hollywood, Kassul said. He moved to California about a year and a half ago and almost im-



Allen Ross

Folk singer Allen Ross will be performing at the UC Storm Cellar at 8 p.m. today. Ross has been critically acclaimed for his original style of music. Tickets are \$1 for Tech Students with ID and \$2 for others.



Rehearsal

Seven dance majors will be presenting their senior recitals at 8 p.m. Sunday in the UC Theater. Seven senior dance majors are presenting original works to partially fulfill

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Sports Scrimmages very popular

Raiders host Baylor in must-win series

By JEFF REMBERT
UD Sports Writer

Tournament fever is in the air, and an epidemic may be imminent, especially if the Tech baseball team wins this weekend's three-game series against the Baylor Bears at the Tech diamond.

Tech, 6-9 in Southwest Conference action and tied for fifth place with Rice, meets Baylor, fourth place with a 7-8 record, in a single nine-inning game today at 3 p.m. The teams play a doubleheader at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Both teams are vying for the fourth berth in the SWC post-season tournament at College Station in May. The top four teams in the final conference standings advance to the tourney which will determine the SWC's representative to the College World Series playoffs.

Kal Segrist's crew is in good shape schedule-wise, because Tech has already played the top three teams in the conference — Texas (12-3), Texas A&M (13-4) and Arkansas (8-6). The Raiders' final three conference opponents are

Baylor, TCU (4-7-1) and SMU (7-11).

Texas, A&M and Arkansas have not clinched tourney berths, but all three teams should be in College Station when the first pitch is thrown.

Baylor still has to play Arkansas and Houston (4-10-1). Arkansas took two-of-three from Texas in Austin last weekend, and the Hogs may be an impregnable force for the Bears in their quest for a tourney berth.

Rice, which is not out of the race yet, has Arkansas on its schedule this weekend and A&M in two weeks. The Owls' chances aren't very good, especially if they tie the Raiders. Tech swept Rice last weekend in Houston.

TCU has to play Arkansas and Texas along with Tech and SMU. The Mustangs' only other series is against the Raiders. Neither team has much chance for a berth, because TCU has tough slate and SMU would have to sweep TCU and Tech.

"We've got to win two from Baylor," Segrist said, "then five more to get into the

tournament."

Tech is in better position to earn a tourney berth than any of the other schools. And with a healthy Larry Selby in left field and Mike Farmer in right field, the Raiders will definitely have the offensive capabilities to beat their remaining foes.

Six Raiders are hitting over .300 in conference games. Tech's team batting average is .279, which is ranked fourth in the SWC.

Pitching, as usual, will be another key in this weekend's series. Tech received fine pitching performances from all three starters last weekend in Houston when it beat Rice 15-4, 8-4 and 3-1.

Jamie Miller (1-1, 1-1) will hurl for the Raiders today against Baylor's Paul Farmer (3-2). Miller is a left-hander, and Farmer is a right-hander.

Saturday, right-handers Steve Ibarguen (4-4, 3-2) and Mark Johnston (3-3, 2-2) will start for Tech. Ibarguen has won his last two outings and has completed six of seven starts. Johnston started the season in the bullpen, but he will be making his second start of the season for Tech.



Kal Segrist

Photo by Mark Rogers

Tech Head Baseball Coach Kal Segrist surveys the situation during the Raiders' 14-1 loss to Texas March 28. Segrist will lead his players against Baylor this weekend at the Tech Diamond.

By DOUG SIMPSON
UD Sports Writer

Spring isn't usually a time of year in which a football team is under a great deal of pressure. There are no games from week to week — only intrasquad scrimmages.

Throughout the community, all is well and good. Businessmen occasionally take an afternoon off to witness a workout. They usually like what they see.

But to coaches, spring training represents a completely different world. What a better time for staffs to evaluate their personnel and take a long, hard look at the 22 young men who will be feeling the heat come September.

Tech's Rex Dockery would be the first to admit that while the pressure is not so evident in the spring, you do have your good days and bad days. In the Tech coach's eyes, Wednesday was a very bad day. Thursday, on the other hand, was a very good one — very good indeed.

"Wednesday's practice wasn't very good," Dockery said. "We didn't get any better. We actually went backwards. Today (Thursday), we picked it up. We're still making too many errors, but we had more intensity and tried to do what was right. After we got started, we had

one of our better practices of the spring."

Dockery said he has been pleased with the overall effort of the entire Raider team this spring.

"Our overall attitude has been very good," he said. "We've made some personnel moves that have been advantageous for us. We've been able to fill some gaps."

The position moves that Dockery spoke of involved Jim Hart, who Wednesday was moved from quarterback to cornerback, Don Earl, who was switched from defensive back to wide receiver, Lewis Washington, who was moved from outside linebacker to outside linebacker, and David Smith, who was switched to outside linebacker.

"The moves have paid off so far," Dockery said. "I was especially encouraged by Hart, Washington, and Pier today (Thursday)."

The Raiders will participate in their fourth scrimmage of the spring at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

"We don't know exactly what we'll be working on yet (in the scrimmage)," Dockery said. "We're going to try to test our kickers under pressure. Of course, we're down to two quarterbacks (Mark James and Richy Ethridge)."

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Lacrosse game canceled

The Tech-SMU lacrosse game will not be played this weekend because of a late cancellation by the SMU squad. The game was scheduled for Saturday at the R.P. Fuller Track Field.

Tech's next home game is scheduled for April 26 against Baylor. The Raiders travel to Austin April 19 to compete against the Lone Star Lacrosse Club and the San Antonio Lacrosse Club.

Tech has virtually wrapped up the championship title of the Southwest Lacrosse Association with a 7-1 record. Tech defeated Notre Dame 10-2 last weekend in its last action.

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