

ple." Neihardt lived much of his life among American Indians and is known as the "poet laureate of the plains." In the 53 years since his book appeared, it has been reprinted 29 times in nine languages.

HEROES IN A HURRY

Hamlet, Faust and Oedipus in an hour? Even for theatregoers who aren't in a hurry, Stuart Sherman's *Classical Trilogy*, on stage this month at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, should provide a surprising new look at theatre history's best-known heroes. These characters, Sherman feels "are just like objects. We've become so used to them that we've stopped seeing them—they've become part of the bloodstream of our cultural life."

Performance artist Sherman, known for his multimedia "spectacles" which utilize common objects manipulated on a tabletop, has retained the narrative structures of the plays in his *Trilogy*, while analyzing their characters, situations and themes through visual and theatrical means. Use of the original text is minimal and, he says, "equal in importance to the other production elements."

Of the three works, only *Oedipus* is new. His 25-minute *Hamlet* was commissioned by Amsterdam's Mickery Theatre and first presented at the Holland Festival in June 1981. *Faust*—a brief five minutes in length—was commissioned by Theater am Turm in Frankfurt, West Germany. Sherman plays the title character in each of the plays, which run April 10-14.

BI-COASTAL BUDDIES

William Mastrosimone's *Shivaree*, currently running at Long Wharf Theatre, traveled a long way to get to its new Connecticut home. The production originated at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, where it ran last fall in the small PONCHO Forum of the company's recently completed Bagley Wright Theatre complex. At Long Wharf, it has taken up residence in the slightly larger, 199-seat Stage II.

Seattle Rep artistic director Daniel

Sullivan directed the play, which he began working on with Mastrosimone last season for a workshop as part of the Rep's Other Season new play project. According to Sullivan, author and director have continued to work on and revise the script throughout the process. "I couldn't have found a less likely playwright to work with and yet I couldn't have enjoyed him more," remarked Sullivan. "Having grown up in California, East Coast natives have always seemed a bit exotic to me; a tough, serious, short breed of whom people from New Jersey seem the shortest and



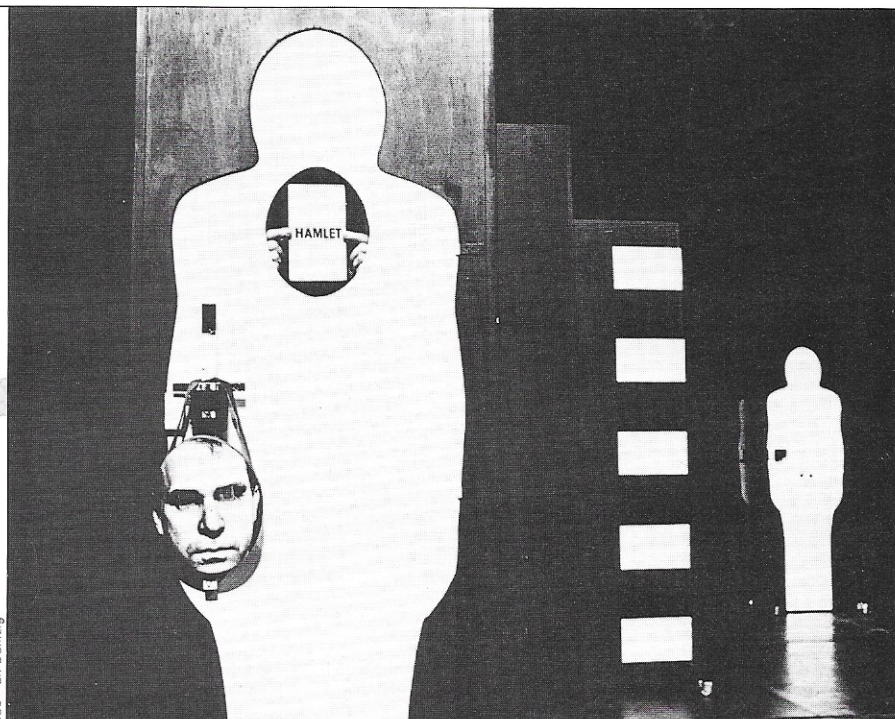
Steve Flynn plays Chandler, a young hemophiliac whose life is changed when he meets the exotic, mysterious belly dancer Shivaree, played by Maggie Baird in the Seattle Repertory Theatre production of *Shivaree*. The play, moved intact from Seattle, is currently running at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven.

most exotic representatives. Bill Mastrosimone is from Trenton, in the darkest heart of New Jersey, and I felt he could not possibly understand a man like myself, who was brought up without incident in the vague Western paradise of California. Surprisingly, we worked together most productively. He's not territorial. He doesn't care where a suggestion originates as long as it improves the script, and he's constantly looking for new ideas."

Shivaree's five-member cast remains intact, and Robert Dahlstrom's set has undergone only minor alterations for the Long Wharf production. The bi-coastal move is a first for the Seattle company. *Shivaree* can be seen through April 22.

LOVE'S LABOUR'S... LOST

Only a few hours after William Shakespeare was named Man of the Year in Calhoun County, Ala., the theatre which bears his name was struck by arson, destroying \$250,000 worth of handmade period costumes. The Alabama Shakespeare Festival, which is planning a 1985 move from its birthplace in Anniston to a multimillion dollar complex in Montgomery, intends to go on with an Anniston season this summer, provided sufficient funds for rebuilding the destroyed stock can be raised.



Stuart Sherman's Hamlet takes a mere 25 minutes to perform, but offers a startling new look at a character he feels we've become so used to that we've stopped seeing him. The set for Hamlet includes masks—of Sherman himself—and life-size cutouts.

Bob Van Dornig

Chris Bannon