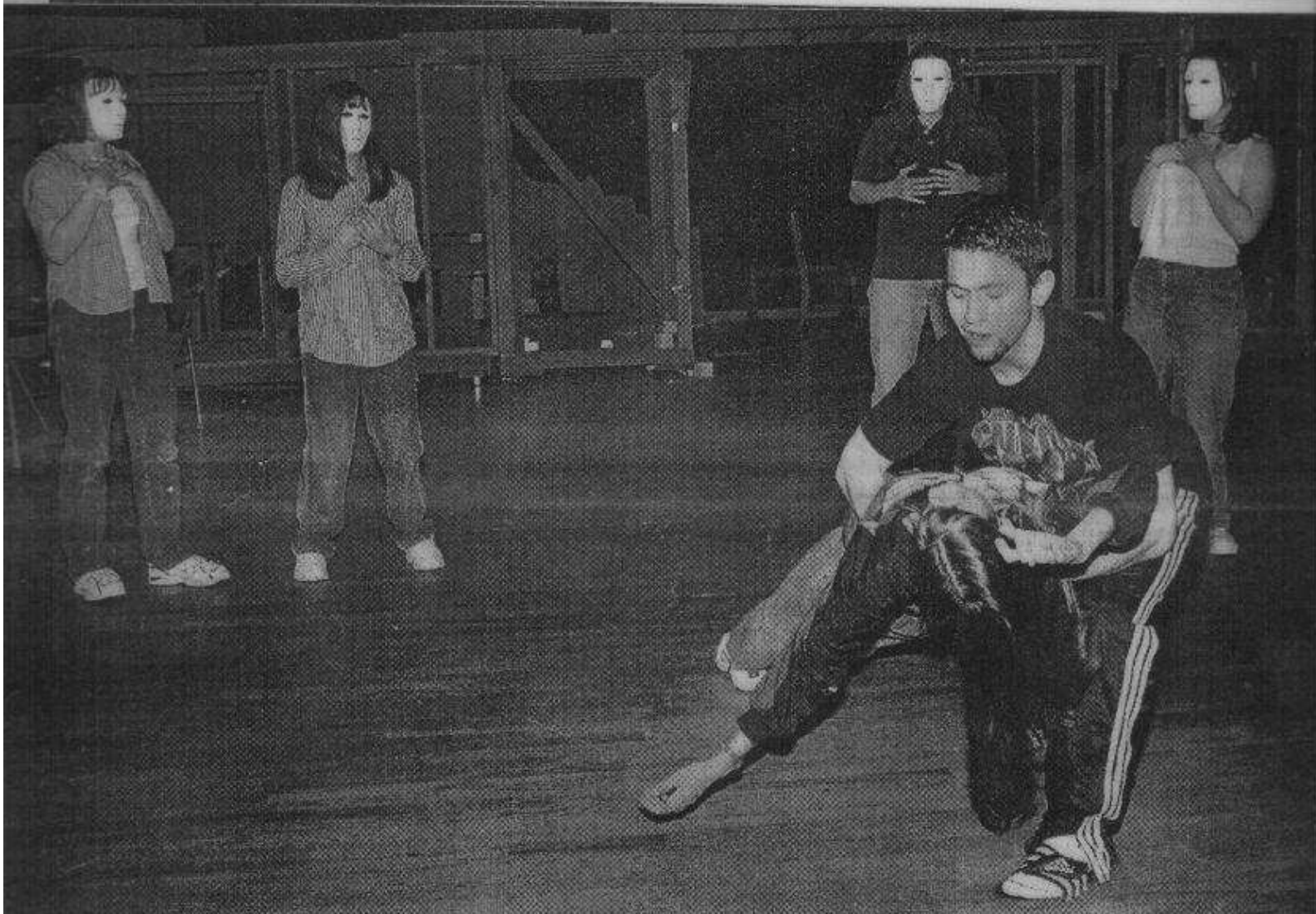


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COURIER PHOTO / MARK MUELLER

Becky Whittenberg and Matt Watson, front, rehearse with Jeanette Alford, Traci Larsen, Heather Archer and Jessica Burrell in the Lincoln High School production of *1984*.

Lincoln players perform '1984'

High school drama department on stage this weekend

By JUDY BUSACK
Courier Staff

The Lincoln High School Drama Department has never been known to do "puff" pieces for its performances.

And, the spring play is no exception. Taking on the task of performing *1984* by George Orwell, drama teacher Martin Jacobs has added a few twists to the production.

The play *1984* is about two people, Winston Smith and Julia, who fall in love in a world, Oceania, that has declared it illegal to love. When it is discovered that they are in love, O'Brien tries to turn them against each other. In the end O'Brien succeeds when the characters start accepting views of the state.

Sophomore Lonnie Scott plays O'Brien "a mean guy who

tricks everybody."

Scott said, "the most different things are the technical aspects, different dream aspects, scenes Mr. Jacobs has adapted to be different."

One of the scenes Jacobs changed was, "when Winston has a nightmare about Julia while he was being tortured. I wanted to give the kids some nonrealistic staging of plays," Jacobs said.

Jacobs also added a segment which is in the book, but not in the play, where Winston has a dream about his childhood done in a nonrealistic flashback.

Although the character of O'Brien is a cruel character, Scott has tried to find some redeeming factors.

"My character is the type of person that (feels) he is doing this to them (Julia and Winston)

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1984

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for their own good, more like a father in his own mind. But to them he is just a mean person," said Scott.

Jacobs challenges the students by making them responsible for all aspects of the play from making posters to performing to choreographing to painting set designs.

"I want them to learn as much as they can," said Jacobs.

By doing plays with a depth to them, Jacobs feels it stretches the students.

"I like for every play that we do to challenge the kids in some way. I think it's more fun for them, if they are doing a light simple thing it gets boring," Jacobs said.

In making the decision on which play to perform, the drama teacher likes to figure out what is going to be in the play to challenge his students and expand their talents.

Scott said all the students would like to thank Jacobs for

making them work hard and how much they appreciate the performance he expects out of them.

The lead characters are senior Roy Michalak playing Syme, sophomore Candace Reynolds playing Parsons, Jessica Burrell, a senior, playing Charrington, Jason Berry a senior and sophomore Matt Watson alternating the role of Winston and senior Kelly Kibler and Becky Whittenberg a junior, perform on alternate nights the role of Julia. Whittenberg also helped with the choreographing of the show.

Scott said the students wanted to thank parent volunteers, Bob Cook, George McDougall and Don Roberts, for their help and Ed Manning the art teacher who helped with the set design.

The play will be held at Lincoln High School at 7 p.m. May 6, at 7 p.m. May 7, at 1 and 7 p.m. May 8 and at 1 p.m. May 9. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and on Mother's Day mothers pay student rates.

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999

COMMUNITY LIFE

CALENDAR

TODAY

Ypsilanti Public Library presents Drop-In Mother's Day Crafts at 7 p.m. at the downtown location, 229 W. Michigan Ave. Call (734) 482-5025.

Ypsilanti Community Choir 1999 Spring Concert, 8 p.m. at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St. This is a free concert.

TODAY-SUNDAY

Lincoln High School Performing Arts Department Presents George Orwell's "1984" Shows are 9 a.m. Thursday, 7 p.m. Friday, and 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday. A Mother's Day matinee will be at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Performances in the high school auditorium. Admission \$5 for adults, \$3 for students. Call (734) 484-7075 ext. 7519 or (734) 484-7884.