By Lacey Korevec
Entertainment Editor

Just as the Harlem Renaissance altered views in New York, the new play *Spunk* will surely change students’ opinions of a traditional musical.

Heads for the Yvonne Theater tonight, Feb. 20, *Spunk* is a show made up of three stories by Zora Neale Hurston, which were adapted by George Wolfe.

Director and Fine Arts Professor Dr. Richard Homan and assistant director, senior, Ian Wentworth are among the many who worked to put the production together, which will introduce the campus to African-American life in the 1920s.

The play is especially relevant during Black History Month, said Dr. Pearlie Peters Professor of English

“I encourage students to go to see it. Wolfe remains true to Hurston’s artistic vision about the representation of African American artistic expressions on the American stage,” said Peters. “*Spunk* introduces the viewing audience to the complexity of African-American life in marriage and relationships. It also shows the function of music and dance in black life.”

The show is not just about African-Americans; rather, it is about a period in time and a lot of amazing people who were left out of the history books, said Wentworth.

“I think it’s extremely well written,” he said. “I think it has a lot of moral implications.”

Freshman Kristen VanRiper has been reading a Zora Neale Hurston book and said that she has plans to read more of her books in the future.

“I’m looking forward to seeing *Spunk* because I’m really interested in Hurston and her work,” she said. “I’m interested in seeing someone else’s point of view for her work.”

A program called “Understanding Spunk” was held on Tuesday, Feb. 2, to explain the life of Hurston.

VanRiper said she attended the event to learn more about the writer before viewing the show.

“I think she has a really interesting story and she really does not get enough credit for everything she’s done,” she said. “She doesn’t really get a lot of recognition.”

After hearing about the auditions for the show at a Black Student Union meeting, Freshman Veronica Spruill said that she decided it was something she wanted to see.

“What I’ve heard so far about the play sounds really interesting,” said Spruill. “I guess because it takes place during the Harlem Renaissance era and that is a period of time that I find very fascinating.”

“I also feel it is very important for black people to support one another, especially as a minority and because it’s Black History Month,” she said.

Choreographed by Fine Arts Professor, Dr. Kim Chandler-Vaccaro, the show includes a unique look at the dancing styles of that time, according to Wentworth.

“The cast worked extremely hard on this show and it was a challenge for them to learn the language but they did it beautifully,” he said. “Some people will be amazed at how the actors were able to memorize these lines and interpret them so well.”

The show is a lot of fun and much of the credit goes to the cast and crew, said Wentworth.

“In my eyes it’s not your standard musical,” said Wentworth. “There’s something really special about this show.”

**Light-hearted romance good for first daters**

By Vincent Civitillo
Managing Editor

For anyone who has ever kissed someone they love so much that every kiss feels just as enchanting as the first, director Peter Segal (*Tommy Boy*) has put together the perfect romantic film.

50 First Dates, starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, is a story about a guy (Sandler as Henry Roth) who falls hopelessly in love with a girl (Barrymore as Lucy Whitmore). While this concept begins as a fairly simple and overly familiar formula, the film takes a drastic turn when it is learned that Lucy was involved in a brain-damaging car accident over a year ago with a fugitive that is only capable of remembering things for 10 days.

As a result, Lucy is unable to remember anything, or anyone, she didn’t already know prior to the accident for longer than a day, leaving Henry with the task of reintroducing himself to her and trying to get her to fall in love with him all over again, every single day.

The undying message of the film, that love is not something to be taken for granted, is perfect for its Feb. 13 release date, just in time for Valentine’s Day, but strong mixes of romance and comedy from Sandler, Barrymore and their entourage make it enjoyable at any time of the year.

The two stars deliver solid performances, but it’s Barrymore who truly stands out among the two. During the days where Henry is successful in getting Lucy to fall for him, the actress lights up with a genuine look of someone who has met that special someone for the very first time, all without repeating a step throughout any of her scenes. However, days where Henry isn’t on his game, Barrymore’s comedic style is brilliant.

Scenes where Lucy will try anything to get Henry to leave her alone, like pretending only to speak Chinese when he knows full well she doesn’t, are placed well in order to break up tear-jerker scenes and give the movie a lighter feel.

In addition to the comedy of the stars, a gang of strange and out-of-place supporting characters are placed throughout the film in order to give it that Sandler-touch.

Rob Schneider (*Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo*) plays Ula, an ugly Hawaiian surfer friend of Henry’s. Ula, who uses Henry’s skills as a veterinarian to get punched up whenever he gets into entanglements with sharks, seems entirely out of place in the film. However, other characters, like Lucy’s “protein-enhanced” bodybuilder brother Doug (Sean Astin of *The Lord of the Rings*), and Tom, a man who can only remember things for 10 seconds before his memory bank is completely wiped clean, add an even stranger Sandler influence to the film.

Nevertheless, fans of these two stars or not, audiences who go in looking for a romantic film, or even just a light comedy, will surely have a good time. As a movie that teaches the very valuable lesson that being in love is about more than just the first few months, 50 First Dates is a movie that should be seen by everyone.