

CHELSEA CLINTON

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Ubu's New Home: An Established Turf

By **GLEND A FRANK**

Francoise Kourilsky, founder and Artistic Director of the Ubu Repertory Theater, is not a woman who wastes time. In a 1987 interview, she declared, "Ubu will not wait passively until the economic and political climate make international exchange more likely." On March 6, Ubu moved into a 99-seat theater at 15 West 28 St. (former home of the Theatre Guenivere), and on April 17 it began its 12th festival, "Homage to the [French] Revolution."

"This," Francoise Kourilsky confides, "is a new adventure."

This year, the bicentennial of the French Revolution, looks like the right time for adventures for Kourilsky. This former contributing editor of "Theatre Populaire" and "Travail Theatrale" and instructor in theater at the Sorbonne and Conservatoire Nationale des Arts Dramatiques wanted more hands-on theater work, so she created an international center where French-language plays in translation might team up with American theater

designers, actors and musicians for the entertainment and education of American audiences. She named the company after "Ubu Roi," a scandalous 1896 play by Alfred Jarry (soon to be staged at Lincoln Center) that is sometimes credited as the first absurdist comedy. Until recently, despite French and NYSCA funding, Ubu had space only for staged readings in the Soho loft it called home. Productions were farmed out to commercial houses or co-sponsors like La Mama E.T.C. and Hunter College.



JACQUES ROBERT
Claire Etcherelli



MARBETH
Wend Kesselman

"Homage to the Revolution" is a two-part tribute, featuring Ubu's first on-site productions since its founding, in 1982.

The initial segment, titled "Revolution Against Racism and Oppression," featured staged readings and panels with playwrights from Reunion Island, France, and several African nations, as well as prominent African-Americans like George C. Wolfe ("The Colored Museum") and Ntozake Shange ("For Colored Girls").

The second segment, running through June 2, is titled "Heroes of the French Revolution." It boasts three productions: "Alive by Night" by Reine Barteve, a fantasy based on the reactions of five lost souls (our contemporar-

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