

# offstage

## Theater X show gathers variety

**T**HEATER X's current Kafkaesque production, "A Country Doctor," features many of the kingpins of Milwaukee's avant-garde scene.

Associate artistic director **John Schneider**, who directs the play, said he didn't decide to go ahead with it until he was able to enlist **Victor DeLorenzo** of the Violent Femmes, an old friend and former Theater X regular, and **Rip Tenor**, a member of Milwaukee's Top Bananas comedy troupe.

Schneider said he thought the part of the wedding guest would be perfect for DeLorenzo, who had "hinted around kind of hard" in the past year that he wanted to get back into acting.

DeLorenzo liked the role, and most important, had the time to do it because the Femmes don't go into the studio again until January.

Schneider, a longtime fan of the Top Bananas, sought Tenor as the ideal Kafka. He phoned the troupe "with bated breath," and Tenor and fellow Bananas **Val Tenor** and **David Maleckar** were delighted to appear with Theater X cast members in the project and managed to work around Maleckar's full-time job.

Schneider's luck seemed to run out when his composer, **John Sieger** of Semi-Twang, had to leave for California in order for his band to record with top producer **Chris Thomas**. Sieger had completed only two songs for the play.

Fortunately, **Sigmund Snopek III**, Sieger's bandmate in The Noisemakers from Hell, was able to step in. Snopek had done songs for Theater X in the past, and quickly came up with a wide range of music, from country-western to what Schneider described as the sounds of "a 1920s drunken Jewish band."

Sets were designed by Milwaukee mixed media artist **James Matson**, who previously designed sets for Theater X's "My Werewolf." Local painter **Carri M. Skoczek** designed the bizarre costumes and sculptor **Roberta K. Williams** deserves the credit for the ingenious properties and furniture.