

Nebraskan entertainment

Add Shakespeare to Grimm—get Howell's holiday fantasy

by Dave Landis
Entertainment Editor

A classic English fairy tale, "The Rose and the Ring," makes its American debut on Howell Theater's stage this December.

William Makepiece Thackeray, the author, combined themes from Shakespeare and the Brothers Grimm to produce a fantastical holiday spirit.

"It's all entertainment," director Andy Backer said. "Sometimes its the Marx Brothers up there, sometimes a Flash Gordon comic book."

A unique feature of this adaptation by John Dalby is the music and dancing.

"The cast is truly multi-talented," remarked a Howell veteran. "We even have a professional football player performing ballet."

The play concerns a usurper king, his son who dresses in basic black, and a beautiful princess. Now where have we seen that before?

Several speeches closely parody soliloquies from Henry IV and, of course, Hamlet.

No period escapes attention. One number is a parody of a complete Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. Another features a queen, princess and countess doing the boogie.

"Coming to the Rescue" sees some of the cast doing the frug and the pony. Chamber music begins the next scene and so it goes.

Responsible for this musical highjinx is music director Mary Potter.

Backer is hesitant to label this show "children's theater." "Really, it is family theater," he said, "an experience for the child and the adult, something they can communicate about."

Backer said that good children's theater is really family entertainment. Bad children's theater, he said, has neither the strength nor appeal to support adult viewing.

The show's sophistication makes the play attractive to adults. The color and spectacle should enchant the children.

Face in the show varies according to the style which is mimicked. Most of the show is fast, farcical, camp and comic-book.

Demands on the actor are well nigh impossible. He must make a fantasy character appear believable in the context of the play.

He must look like there is no physical danger in doing five back flips if that's what his part calls for. His only resource is sincerity.

The director's responsibility

is to make this show as colorful and magical as possible. The most challenging duty for the show's director is to make a coherent, cohesive style out of the melange, dramatic genre that is parodied.

The technical aspects of this production are staggering. Ten sets, eighty costumes and a myriad of props make for a hectic night for the stage manager.

The cast includes six children and actors from the

community as well as the campus.

Andy Backer

The director of this show is no newcomer to Lincoln theater patrons. Andy Backer has won awards at the University and the community Playhouse as well as in state-wide play writing competition.

"Alice in Wonderland" and the "Wizard of Oz" are recent Backer children's theater productions.

Former exposure at Howell

for Backer includes "King Lear," "The Homecoming" and a last minute stand-in as a butler in "A Flea in Her Ear."

Andy serves the community as City Recreation Director for music and drama. In this capacity he is blending community and university facilities for another memorable night at Howell.

The show opens Dec. 10 and runs Dec. 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19 and 20.

Home Ec Career Day scheduled

Home Economics classes will be dismissed Monday afternoon for a Home Economics Career Day.

The program begins at 1:30 p.m. in the East Union Auditorium. Miller and Paine's personnel director, Jerry Tinsdale, will speak on job interviewing.

Following the general meeting, students can attend three 45 minute buzz sessions. Eleven professional home economists from all areas of home economics will be on hand to explain their jobs and to answer questions.

NU judging team captures third

A University of Nebraska judging team captured third place in the Midwest Livestock Contest at Manhattan, Kan., placing second in hog judging, third in cattle judging and fifth in sheep judging.

The NU team was topped by Oklahoma State University and the University of Missouri.

Larry Kubicek of Wilber, was third high individual judge. T. J. Peters of Elk Creek placed fifth and John Jarchow of Kaykin eighth in overall standings. Jarchow was third high hog judge and Kubicek third high cattle judge.

Other team members were Dean Sander of Creston and Gary Sierks of North Platte. Rag Wed Cnealdar P. 4

Puppeteers hold second program

The second production of the season for the Playhouse Puppeteers opens Saturday. Two Christmas stories, "The Little Shoemaker" and "The Juggler of Our Lady" will be the feature marionette plays.

The program is under the direction of Lee Ridge and will include a contemporary hand puppet playlet and a shadow show. The performance will run Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6 and 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Community Playhouse.

GO BIG RED

Ceramics and Glass by John Nygren; "Kitchen Keramik," exhibit of Pottery by several potters; Print Invitational, exhibit of works of four print makers; Drawings by Fritz Bultman; and Paintings by Jannis Spyropoulos, Sheldon Art Gallery.

Paintings and Sculpture by Prof. Richard Hohley of Southwestern College, Winfield, Kansas, Elder Art Gallery.

Nov. 28-30
"A Thousand Clowns," Lincoln Community Playhouse, 8:30 p.m., except Sun., 7:30 p.m.



Is it the Marx Bros.? Is it Flash Gordon? No, it's a scene from "The Rose and the Ring," a Howell Theater production.

Joslyn to exhibit Picasso's erotic prints

Much interest has been stirred by Pablo Picasso's recent release of highly erotic prints and drawings.

Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha will be exhibiting Picasso's prints that were the

formative stages in this new development.

Picasso's linocuts from 1958 to 1963 are being presented through December 7 by the Computer Applications Incorporated Collection.

Themes depicted are bacchanals, bullfights, heads of women and surrealistic figures. The set of one hundred large linoleum cut graphics represent

Picasso's innovations in multi-color printing from the same block.

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