

Big, little ones high on fantasy; Howell's holiday gift a success

A Review by Denis Calandra

I've seen the University production of *The Rose and The Ring* twice now; once with a couple of hundred kids as the audience, and once with a primarily adult audience. Judging by the reaction of the two groups the show is a success.

You need some Christmas joy? Go see it, and abduct a kid to take along if you can

Federal Service exam scheduled

A special Federal Service Examination will be conducted by the U.S. Civil Service Commission on Tues. beginning at 8:30 p.m. in Room 415, U.S. Post Office Building, at 10th and "P" Streets.

The two-hour qualifications examination is the principal means for hiring young college graduates in careers in 50 agencies throughout the nation. It is designed primarily for social science, humanities, and business majors.

Seniors and graduate students who wish to take the exam should pick up a copy of the announcement package, which contains sample questions, at the Placement Office, or walk into the test.

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manage it. The kid-audience naturally being the hipper one, they did what the play asked them to do; they yelled and cheered when things were exciting, and rolled marbles up the aisle when they got bored. Note: the marble rolling stopped after the first six minutes of exposition.

The only time during the production when I was bothered by a technical difficulty was at the end of Act I when Fairy Blackstick dangles out of control from a wire before it "flies" her off stage. A comment I overheard from a perceptive nine year old reminded me that I was just being a fool peacaying English teacher again.

The kid turned to a friend in the row behind him and said, loud and clear: "Man, did you see her. She wasn't flying on no string. She was flying on LSD." Indeed, the whole musical

play takes place somewhere in and around a fantasy land called Paflogonia. Thank God the plot is unimportant because it's nearly impossible to follow; one of those things with several kings, several princes, several princesses, a clutch of villains, a good witch with a magical rose and magical ring which make their owners appear beautiful, all thrown together, mixed up, and unraveled by means of that chestnut of plot devices—the discovery of true identities at the end.

Needless to say the right people get married and a joyous finale is sung by all. What is important in this production is the artistry of the director (Andy Backer), his choreographer (Rick Williams), musical director (Mary Anne Potter), and the cast in bringing the cartoon characters of *The Rose and The Ring* to life in music.

The dance numbers seem to have been worked out with precision, and the music is entertaining from the introductory series of Christmas carols to the lively curtain call-finale. Musical styles are mixed: some parody, some straight lyrical, some Broadway musical comedy stuff.

In true Jeanette McDonald, Nelson Eddy fashion the handsome Prince Giglio gazes fixedly into his chambermaid-Princess Betsinda's eyes and they waltz, as a battle rages all around them. In a parody of a Mozart recitative, three uglies and a Prince who thinks he's Hamlet sing "I Love You Truly."

A good deal of the comedy in *The Rose and The Ring* derives from this mixing of styles. The unexpected is funny: a queen, her daughter and a countess suddenly break "character" and do a brassy hip-bumping routine while expelling their chambermaid ("Get Out of the House"); the "Hamlet" Prince and his two friends, Horatio and Smith, after they've decided to fight "for Paflogonia, Giggy, and St. Denisovitch," break into the early Beatles' style "We're Coming To The Rescue," accompanied on the guitar by Captain of the Guard Hedzoff.

Any flaws in individual scenes, notably some tired slapstick routines and flat one-liners, are glossed over by the fast pace of the acting. Outstanding is Chris Ballant as King Valeroso of Paflogonia's foppish and giddy herald. In the second act Ballant plays King Padella, a cross between Yosemite Sam and Taras Bulba, who has a peculiar fetish for chickens. Typically, his make up and costumes are perfect.

Of the other males, Bill Wallis as goofy Prince Bulbo and Bill Szymanski, (Giglio) who does some amusing imitations of Richard Burton as Hamlet, are notable. Lynda Kodad (Princess Angelica) and Jeanne Mathes (Betsinda) shine among the women. The ensemble, including a new brother-sister dancing lion act (Jeff and Gayle Aitchison), is excellent in support.

The Rose and The Ring is showing this Friday and Saturday nights, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday. The run will continue next Wednesday through Saturday nights. Call Howell Theatre box office (472-2073) for reservations.



Cast members from *The Rose and the Ring*, now playing at the Howell Theater, sing carols while decorating a Christmas tree in a pre-performance appearance.

Culture calendar

- Dec. 16-21 Annual Christmas Fair, Sheldon Art Gallery.
- Dec. 16 Madrigal Singers & Brass Choir, University of Nebraska School of Music, Kimball Hall, 8:00 p.m.
- Dec. 17 "La Guerre Est Finie," presented by Nebraska Union Film Society, Nebraska Theatre, 7:00 & 9:00 p.m. (Members only)
- Dec. 17-21 "The Rose and the Ring," by William Makepeace Thackeray, Howell Theatre, University of Nebraska, 8:00 p.m. (\$1.75 for students, \$2 for adults)
- Dec. 21 Christmas Choral Vesper, presented by Westminster Presbyterian Church Vesper Concert Series, 4:00 p.m.

PBKs announced

Sixteen University of Nebraska senior scholars were named Wednesday evening as new members of Phi Beta Kappa, a national scholastic honorary limited to the highest ranking students in the liberal arts and sciences.

Some of the seniors completed degree requirements during the 1969 summer sessions and others are first semester seniors this fall, according to Stephen Kellison, secretary of the University chapter.

Dr. Miles Tommerassen, director of business and finance for the Lincoln campuses and outside activities of the University, was guest speaker at the dinner meeting in the Nebraska Union. Formal initiation ceremonies for the new members will be held in May.

The new members are:
—Susan M. Beachly, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Beachly of Lincoln (3230 South Gate Circle, who is a freshman this fall at the University's College of Medicine in Omaha.
—Samuel E. Boon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd W. Boon of Napoleon, who is a freshman in the University's College of Medicine in Omaha.
—Arthur M. Bullock, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bullock of Lincoln (2201 South 37th), who is a senior majoring in mathematics with a minor in philosophy.
—Gina Eckert Chastelino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Eckert of Lincoln

(4111 Dudley) who is majoring in genetics in the University's Graduate College.
—Donald D. Schneider, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Gordon of Lincoln (641 P. Prospect), who graduated from the University with a major in French with minors in Russian and English.
—Donald L. Lickel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Lickel of Lincoln (1112 Valley Ave.), who is now enrolled in graduate work at Iowa State University in Ames, Ia.
—Thomas J. Morrow, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Morrow of Omaha (331 S. 74th St.), who graduated from the University with a major in economics and minors in agriculture economics and English.
—Bruce E. Raymer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Raymer of Lincoln (4333 E. 51st), who is a senior majoring in English with minors in mathematics and psychology.
—Russell R. Reeves, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Reeves of Omaha (5405 Fort), who is a senior majoring in history with minors in English and political science.
—Dennis P. Schafer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schafer of Lincoln (2426 Dudley) who is a senior majoring in economics and political science with a minor in mathematics.
—Vicki J. Schick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Schick of Lincoln (3009 S. 26th), who is a senior majoring in mathematics and chemistry.
—Donald H. Schneider, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Schneider of North Platte, who graduated from the University with a major in history and minors in English and political science.
—Luanne M. Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger C. Smith of Coalinga, who is doing graduate work in English at the University.
—Joel T. Thorson, son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Thorson of Lincoln (2327 S. 54th St.), who is a senior in English with minors in mathematics and philosophy.
—Natalie S. Zieg, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. H. J. Zieg of Lincoln (1355 Fall Creek Road), who is a senior majoring in German with a minor in English.
—Linda E. Varvel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor F. Varvel of Lincoln (2501 Lafayette Ave.) who is a senior majoring in speech and dramatic art with minors in music and English.

Moon rock is on display

A moon rock brought back by the Apollo 12 astronauts goes on display today at Morrill Hall to begin a 10 day visit.

The rock is one of six touring the country. It will be guarded while on display according to

Allan Griesemer of the museum's educational service. The specimen will be enclosed in an oxygen-free container.

Griesemer said some confusion resulted from Mrs. Tiemann's announcement that the governor's moon "rock" would be displayed Dec. 9-19 at the Governor's Mansion. Griesemer said each governor was presented with a plaque by President Richard Nixon which bears black specks from the moon collection.

"It's not the same as ours," he emphasized.

A press conference was held this morning at the museum.

The museum's acting Director, Dr. Harvey Gunderson traveled to Holston Space Center to pick up the moon rock.

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'Messiah' to be performed Sunday

George Fredrick Handel's oratorio "Messiah" will be performed at 3 p.m. Sunday by the University's orchestra and choral union, totalling more than 700 musicians. It will be conducted by Earl Jenkins, professor of voice. Professor Myron Roberts will be at the organ.

Soloists, all voice majors in the School of Music, will be Jill Eiche, a junior from Lincoln,

soprano; Pamela Schapp, a senior from Omaha, alto; Roger Benjamin, a junior from Oxford, tenor; and Joni Brandstetter, a sophomore from Wayne, bass.

The orchestra is prepared by Emanuel Wisnow, director of the School of Music, and the two choruses in the choral union by Jenkins and John

Moran, associate professor of music education. Accompanists are Jean Colgan, a junior from Holdrege and Dennis Vorley, a sophomore from Blair.

Traditional carols will be played from the Ralph Mueller Carillon preceding and following the "Messiah." Carillonist will be Bruce Crain, a senior from Fairbury.

Tryouts to be in Howell Theater

Open tryouts for Howell Theater's production of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer's Night Dream" will be held January 6-8 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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