

Summer Nebraskan



TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1971

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

NO. 7

Ancient Curse Causes Disaster To Haunt Productions of 'Macbeth'

Productions of "Macbeth," in addition to all of the usual problems involved in producing any play, are saddled with a special problem—all have a curse on them.

"I don't know when it got started," said Bob Hall, director of the play. "But legend has it that some forms of minor or major disaster supposedly haunt productions of 'Macbeth.' In fact, the actor who plays Macduff in our production already has a broken hand."

"I can assure the public, however," Hall added, "that the curse only relates to physical injury of actors and not to quality of performance."

"Macbeth," the third offering on the Nebraska Summer Repertory Theatre's bill, will open August 6 at 8:30 p.m. at Howell Theatre.

Hall explained that they are doing the show this year with a suggestion of the Eleventh Century. The costumes and sets, he said, will reflect the barbaric, Dark Ages feeling commonly associated with

this period in history.

"The actual staging techniques, however," he added, "will be more modern. There will be highly styled, almost choreographed, battle scenes. We will also use simultaneous staging techniques such as the split stage and split focus, so that scenes overlap."

Projections will be used in this production, Hall said, but they will be used to suggest abstract patterns and mood feelings rather than to add to the realism.

Since Shakespeare was primarily an actors playwright, Hall said, much of the emphasis in "Macbeth" will be placed on the individual actors.

"I want to emphasize the actors' abilities as much as possible," he explained. "I will be trying to create effects by using the actors, their bodies and their reactions, rather than by using props, lights and so forth."

One of the main problems involved in

producing Shakespeare, Hall said, is trying to present the play so that the playwright's messages have meaning for the modern audience.

"People keep asking me if we're updating Shakespeare and his themes," he said. "Actually you don't strive to update 'Macbeth.' You look for what's timely, such as the examination of violence and what happens to a man who kills, and see that the theme is already relevant and does apply today."

"I tend to think that Shakespeare is like a sponge—his plays absorb all of the themes present in the time in which they're performed."

Hall added that one of the strong themes contained in "Macbeth" is an examination of violence and death and the effects they have on man.

"Actually," he explained, "there is no one message or theme contained in the play. It examines a man who kills and what happens to him, it examines violence and ruthlessness and it also examines ambition. Hopefully, the audience will understand these various themes and apply them to today."

"In the end, however, the primary thing that Shakespeare is trying to do is entertain his audience," Hall said.

The actors in "Macbeth," Hall said, also encounter problems in trying to relate their roles to the modern audience.

"The hardest part about doing the major roles," he explained, "is trying to make it seem that the characters are human beings, not merely poetry machines. On the other hand, they cannot be the pseudo-realistic characters you see on television. The actor's approach must be somewhere between the two extremes."

Tickets for the play may be purchased by mail or in person at Howell Theatre, 12th and R Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska. The price for individual tickets is \$2 and a season ticket is \$4.50.



Margaret Hawthorne (Lady Macbeth) and Steve Gaines (Macbeth) will star in the Nebraska Summer Repertory Theatre's upcoming production of "Macbeth."

Campus Calendar

TUESDAY, JULY 27

Gary Cooper Film Festival—"Bright Leaf." 7:00 p.m., Nebraska Union.

Administrators' Roundtable. Speaker: Dr. Forrest E. Conner "The Pressures on the Administrator." 6:00 p.m., Schramm Hall.

Repertory Theatre—"The Man of La Mancha." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Summer Opera—"Cosi fan tutte." 8:00 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall.

Repertory Theatre—"We Bombed in New Haven." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre. Administrators' National Conference. Schramm Hall.

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Summer Film Series—"Reflections in a Golden Eye." 7:00 p.m., Nebraska Union.

Summer Opera—"Cosi fan tutte." 8:00 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall. Phi Delta Kappa Luncheon. 11:45 a.m., Nebraska Union.

Repertory Theatre—"The Man of La Mancha." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

Summer Opera—"Cosi fan tutte." 8:00 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall.

Repertory Theatre—"We Bombed in New Haven." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

Summer Opera—"Cosi fan tutte." 8:00 p.m., Kimball Recital Hall.

Repertory Theatre—"The Man of La Mancha." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

Repertory Theatre—"The Man of La Mancha." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

Gary Cooper Film Festival—"Dallas." 7:00 p.m., Nebraska Union.

Repertory Theatre—"We Bombed in New Haven." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

Summer Film Series—"Any Wednesday." 7:00 p.m., Nebraska Union.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

Repertory Theatre—"Macbeth." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Repertory Theatre—"Macbeth." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

Final date for submitting masters thesis (at least one week before oral exams). Repertory Theatre—"We Bombed in New Haven." 8:30 p.m., Howell Theatre.

Inside

NU Library Moving BooksPage 2

Letter to the EditorPage 2

ETV SchedulePage 3

Poetry by Jerry AbelsPage 4

Library Acquires Rare Volume - 'The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer'

The University of Nebraska Libraries in Lincoln acquired its millionth volume, a rare copy of "The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer," published in 1542, in a special ceremony July 13.

The volume was donated to the University by Johnny Johnson of Lincoln, president of the Nebraska Book Company which operates the Nebraska Book Store.

Chancellor D. B. Varner and President Joseph Soshnik accepted the volume on behalf of the University, faculty and students in ceremonies held at the C. Y. Thompson Library on the East Campus.

Frank Lundy, director of University Libraries, described the acquisition as a "symbol of intellectual maturity. It is an early symbol of maturity and greater growth lies ahead. This is a moment of great pride to all of us who have shared in this institution, whether as students, as faculty, as staff, or as fellow Nebraskans."

Dr. John Robinson, professor of English and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, described the volume by Chaucer as "a copy of the collected works of this master of life and of art which has so munificently been donated to the University Libraries. It is in fact a copy of the 1542 printing of the first collected edition.

"This edition was conscientiously put together from the manuscripts by one William Thynne, and printed by the same early printers who printed the Great Bible of 1539. It is set in English blackletter type, contains 744 pages (and yet remember that Chaucer was an economical writer) and twenty-one woodcut illustrations. Of course, very few other copies of this book survive," according to Professor Robinson.

"During the course of a hundred years, the University has from time to time received a few gifts of such a nature. None, I believe, exceeds the present volume in true value. This volume itself is a work of art, and an early example of

the craftsman's skill—a craft which we continue to teach in our typography classes in the School of Journalism.

"Chaucer himself realized the value of such things, and loved old books. The book is also a cultural monument of great inspirational value. It is also primary research material for the textual scholar and bibliographer."

Dr. Robinson said, "The point to grasp is that Chaucer was a man of the Middle Ages, but that William Thynne, the editor of this first collected edition, was a man of the Renaissance. Quite apart from the glorious and humanizing experience of reading and studying the writings of Chaucer himself, the question is, 'What did the man of the Renaissance make of the man of the Middle Ages?' This book will help answer that question."

Pharis to Lead Dialogue Session

"Educational Organizations—Hope or Hoax" will be the subject of an informal dialogue session August 3 at 1:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union.

Dr. Bill Pharis, a visiting professor of educational administration, will lead the session. A staff member at the University of Nebraska from 1960-1966, Dr. Pharis is currently the executive secretary of the National Association of Elementary School Principals, an organization affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA).

"During the session," Dr. Pharis said, "I hope to talk about the future of teacher and administrator organizations. I would also like to discuss what's happening to the NEA family and whether or not administrators can remain as members of the national and state education associations.

"Another important topic which we should consider is 'what are some of the jobs that our association should be doing for us?'"

NU Summer Opera Will Reflect Modern Influence of TV, Movies

This year's summer opera, Mozart's "Cosi fan tutte," will not be the same opera seen by Mozart's audiences of the 1800s, according to John Zei, NU assistant professor of voice and director of the opera.

"We cannot produce the opera exactly as it was produced in Mozart's day," Zei said, "because certain conventions of theatre which were stylized at that time would not be accepted by today's audience."

One such convention, he explained, is the practice of stopping all action during the duets, trios or other important musical numbers.

"In the 1800s it was felt that all of the singers and actors should be posed and static during the musical numbers," Zei said. "This just would not be acceptable and, in fact, would be downright boring,

to today's audience. Their tastes have changed, largely as a result of the impact of television and motion pictures."

"To make the opera alive and vital," he added, "we're going to eliminate the conventional stop-action, go-action, stop-action sequences and substitute instead constant action, even through the musical numbers."

Zei said that they also plan to use projections to make the picture seen by the audience as vividly real as possible.

"All of the elements of the opera, and especially the sets," he said, "will have a great deal of visual depth so that they will appear to be more than one dimension."

Zei explained that much of the action in "Cosi fan tutte" will be similar to the type of slap stick comedy made famous by Laurel and Hardy and other early 20th Century comics. He added that this type of staging seems to blend very well with the comic operas of Mozart.

"In addition to the comedy," he said, "there will also be much beauty in this opera. In many instances, in fact, it becomes almost a fashion show—beautiful movements, beautiful sets and costumes all blend with one another in an achievement of perfect symmetry."

All-in-all, the director explained, the whole show will be forged toward a unification of the classic principles of opera so that the music of Mozart does not suffer.

"With Mozart the music is the most important aspect of the show—it is truly magnificent," he stated.

"Cosi fan tutte" opens tomorrow at 8:00 p.m. in Kimball Recital Hall and continues through July 31. Tickets for the opera are available at 123 Westbrook Music Building, 11th and R. Reservations may be made by calling 472-3375 from 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

HEP 'Pays' For Mexican-American Youth

by ROBIN LEWIS
NU Journalism Student

"HEP Pagal!" This Spanish phrase has meaning for youth involved in the High School Equivalency Program (HEP). And HEP does "pay," according to HEP students interviewed recently at the University of Nebraska.

HEP is an attempt by the United States government to bring predominantly Mexican-American migrant youth into modern society by giving them the opportunity to receive a high school diploma.

"Our program is forty young people who've dropped out of school, anywhere from second or third grade to a senior in high school," said Gale Muller, director.

He added that HEP is funded by a grant from the federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) to the Nebraska Human Resources Research Foundation and is located in the 501 Building on the downtown campus.

To qualify for the program, a student must be age 17 to 22 and a migrant or seasonal farm worker. There are four full-time teachers in science, math, social studies, English and literature. "Most of our courses are built around a reading base," said Muller.

The 16 HEP programs are on college campuses to the students can "get back into the swing of academic life," Muller said. "Young people about their age are working in an academic atmosphere. Also, the facilities are better than those offered elsewhere."

During the summer 35 to 40 students are in HEP, while in winter the maximum of 50 students often enroll. The goal of HEP students is to pass the General Educational Development tests (G.E.D.'s) given in easy subject.

Muller said mini-courses are taught to meet individual needs of students. Lasting from three to four weeks, they might include speech, conversational Spanish, golf and finance. "The students learn at their own level on a one-to-one basis. There's not so much a teacher-student relationship as a student-student relationship," said Marta Hernandez, a freshman counselor for HEP.

She said the students sometimes help and teach each other and it's "a much better situation than a regular high school."

The majority of HEP students interviewed dropped out of school because of the economic situation in their families. Donald Germany, an 18-year-old former migrant worker from El Paso, Tex., said, "I like school. I didn't think of dropping out."

"When I was going to school, I felt that I was forgetting things I knew. I couldn't do that all my life," he said. "I had to do something for myself."

After Germany passes his G.E.D.'s he will go to college in El Paso. He dropped out of school in the ninth grade and has been with HEP five months.

Rosa Ortiz, 20, discovered HEP through IMAGE, a program in Mission, Tex. Several programs in the United States, such as IMAGE, are designed to find jobs for, or in this case, help migrant youth further their education.

Miss Ortiz, who quit school in the 11th grade, may pass her G.E.D.'s in June or July. She has been with HEP since February.

Freshman Vince Lopez, a former HEP student, is now studying elementary education at the university.

Lopez said he dropped out of school in the 12th grade because he had to help with the family income and couldn't get along with people in school.

Before HEP, he said he wasn't planning to go to college. The university provides undergraduate counselors for the program. These counselors are selected in three-hour interviews and paid from the OEO grant.

Miss Hernandez said part of a counselor's job is to take his counselee out for recreation and relaxation. She said, "We stress social activities, as well as education."

Eloy Hinojosa, a HEP student from Kingsville, Tex., explains the counselor's role: "They'll help us when we're down. They'll pep us up."

Counselor Bruce Cutright, a junior pre-dental major, said the friendship between counselor and counselee "has to be a natural thing."

"The more you're with somebody and the more you attend his activities, the better the friendship will be."

Roger Moore, a junior business administration student, said that occasionally a "homesick" HEP student would "rather throw his education out the door than be away from his family." He added that the counselor should encourage him by being his friend and someone he can respect.

Cutright said a counselor should "acknowledge to them (HEP students) those morals and norms that people have to follow in this society, particularly in the University society."

HEP students should be taught "what an education is and the right way to get it," according to Cutright.

"Everyone has potential and talents," he said. "When you find these qualities, you stress them."

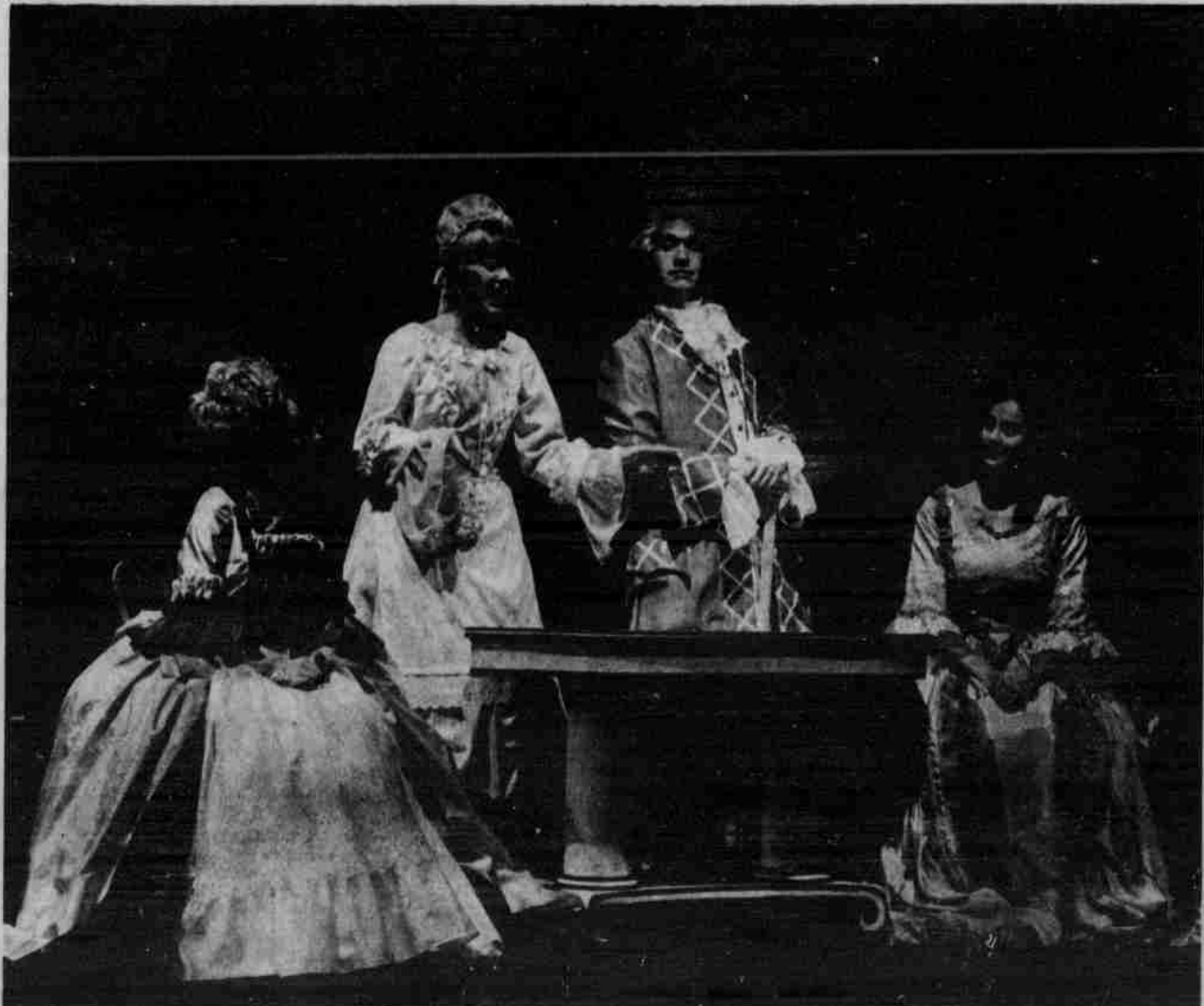


Photo by Nick Partish

Rehearsing for "Cosi fan tutte" are (from left) Marilyn Tronin, Carol Wilson, John Brandstetter and Kathy Harney.