

Friday brings Chalk Circle, Leonard Rose

University Theater and Kimball Hall both will be busy Friday night with the opening of *Caucasian Chalk Circle* at the theater and the first concert in the performing arts series at Kimball.

In *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, author Bertold Brecht takes the audience to the last remaining council house in the Georgian province of Russia. There, two collective farms argue about possession of a particularly rich valley. After a representative from the reconstruction committee settles the disagreement, the farmers celebrate. For the celebration, a national poet is asked to recite 2,000 lines of ancient Chinese poetry relating to the collective.

The production will have blaring loudspeakers with the collective members tending the fire and their animals. Banners also will carry propaganda slogans broadcast over the speakers.

"The show is very theatrical, as with all Brecht's works, the audience never loses sight that they are in a theater. The illusion of reality is never there," said William Morgan, show director.

Brecht is the forerunner for the ensemble style of acting used in the show where an actor impersonates several characters

without ever becoming the character. A group feeling is evident among all the actors. "Brecht's alienation theory is the theater should explain and show how things work so people will understand what choices there are, not merely indulge in brief emotion," Morgan said.

Brecht felt this allowed the audience to weep over the plight of the poor and then leave the theater, purged of their guilt, but only to do the same things over again.

Caucasian Chalk Circle caught criticism from both Brecht's Communist supporter and the Western world. His supporters thought it had Western leanings, while Westerners felt it was entirely too Communist, Morgan said.

The production runs through next Saturday with no Sunday performance.

The new Performing Arts Series, under the auspices of the Cultural Affairs Committee, begins Friday at Kimball with cellist Leonard Rose in concert.

According to Ron Bowling, the series has 560 subscription tickets sold. While he said this wasn't an exciting total, he said it at least is respectable.

"It simply takes a while to build a program. This year we got statted late and many people had made other commitments, both in time and money, to other things," Bowlin said.

Arrangements already are being made for next year's series. Through a questionnaire to be distributed at Friday night's concert, the committee hopes to gain a better idea of what artists or particular instruments people would like to hear next year.

theater

'Cactus Flower'

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to see somebody trying to do something with a role. Winston's prim and proper nurse Stephanie Dickinson (Linda White), who blossoms at the end of the play, was enjoyable, but rather unbelievable during a second act night club scene.

Showing some nervousness, Mary Frey, as girl friend Toni Simmons, tried hard and occasionally succeeded. She was at her best in scenes with Martens, and definitely at her worst when playing opposite her next door neighbor Igor Sullivan (Donald Baack).

Baack and Jerry Egan as Senor Sanchez tried as losers in the production. Baack displayed no characterization to speak of, and Egan had a grotesque Spanish accent which would have had Pancho Villa after him if Villa could have heard it.

The Playhouse has been using a lot of portable fragmented sets in past productions, and *Cactus Flower* is no exception. The multiple scene designs were done by Lee Schoonover and served their purpose, with the exception of Toni's bedroom which appeared very unstable.

The stage lighting was simply, but adequately handled. Unfortunately, for some reason the light operators insisted on playing with the lights before the second act curtain, bringing the spots up and taking them down several times.

Perhaps if you take an Alka-Seltzer before going to *Cactus Flower* you won't mind the anchovies so much. After all, it really isn't prepared too badly.

cinema

Cinema 1: "The New Centurions" 1, 3:02, 5:04, 7:10, 9:16
Cinema 2: "Fiddler on the Roof" 1:15, 4:30, 8:15
"Lady Sings the Blues" 7, 9:40
Cooper Lincoln: "When the Legend Die" 1:30, 3:30, 5:30
Embassy: "School Girls Grow Up" 11, 12:45, 2:30, 4:15, 6, 7:45, 9:30, 11:15
State: "Dumbo" 1, 3:11, 5:22, 7:33, 9:44
"The Legend of Lobo" 2:04, 4:15, 6:26, 8:37
Stuart: "When Legends Die" 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

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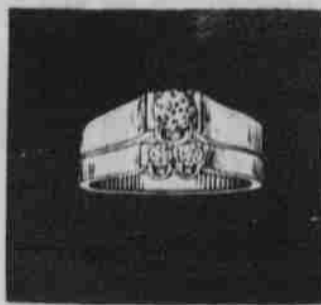
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