

Frisco company brings Shakespeare to life

The bawdy bard comes to life today with a visit by the New Shakespeare Company of San Francisco. The company will present Shakespeare's *As You Like It* at 7:30 tonight in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

The company, founded six years ago, performed first in the San Francisco area, taking Shakespeare to parks and schools. Tours, first in California and then across the U.S., have helped in taking Shakespeare to the people.

"The theater was begun to reach people. We go out and play at parks and colleges instead of having an expensive building. So much of theater today is prohibitive because of cost. We want to make theater available to a lot of people," said Elizabeth McAninch, who will play Rosalind.

Before joining the New Shakespeare Company last November, McAninch was a member of the resident company at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, a standard theater company.

"Here we have more of a communal feeling. Everyone works together, sharing what they know in putting the show on. I can sew, so I help in costuming. The show belongs to all of us, having shared ourselves in building it. In other companies it seems more like the management's show and the actors just get a check," McAninch said.

The sharing continues through the company's performance. Ken Wilkinson who plays Corin, said "People who see our shows suddenly realize they understand what the man was trying to say. He's 400 years-old and times have changed. But the relationships of person to person and group to group have not."

"Our performance is a celebration. It is a joyous affair, for us to be sharing the story with the audience. The reaction we get is that people never

knew Shakespeare could be so fun after the serious academic treatment he receives in high school," McAninch said.



Shakespeare's *As You Like It* will be performed tonight at 7:30 in the Union.

Kevin Gardiner, with the company three and one-half years, came to San Francisco after "being fed-up with the commercialism of New York City" to look for a theater concerned with the artistic side of performing.

"With this company, as we work together and gain stability, I feel like I'm building a theater that is going to continue to grow," said Orlando Gardiner.

"Of course, the more work one does, the more he can do. Performing an average of 120 shows plus free appearances each year, with the director present and giving notes, helps develop the actor and the discipline within the group. That growth should never stop," Gardiner said.

Weather permitting, the company will perform a scene from *As You Like It* at 12:30 around the Broyhill Fountain.

Zeffirelli's latest film— not so good

Review by Larry Kubert

Director Franco Zeffirelli is known for his tasteful and beautiful photography, so it is no wonder that this is the best part of his latest film,

Brother Sun, Sister Moon.

Zeffirelli's first effort since *Romeo and Juliet*, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, is the semi-fictional story of Francis of Assisi and his struggle to establish the Catholic Church's Franciscan Order.

Zeffirelli's camera moves as if it were blessed, capturing some of the most beautiful fields of flowers and wheat to ever grace the hillsides of Italy. Using distant and close-up shots of meadows, hills, birds, and wasps, the photography is the film's most positive feature.

Costume authenticity is not ignored either. From the luxurious and wealthy robes of the land owners to

the jeweled and bedazzling clergy to the stinking rags of the beggars and lepers, the costumes are astounding.

However, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon* does have some problems. Most notable is the boring script. By stressing Francis' discarding of wealth and possession and the problems he experienced with the Establishment Church, the script tries to capitalize on the current youth culture's move back to nature.

Supporting this concept is the use of several songs sung by Donovan which at first are appealing, but become intrusive and irritating as the film progresses. Hardly an outside

scene is shown without Donovan warbling in the background.

The actors do what they can with the lines the script provides. Graham Faulkner as Francis delivers a strong character, and Judi Bowker as the gentle Clare gives an impressive first performance.

Alec Guinness is powerful as the weary and mesmerized Pope Innocent III, who finally gives his blessing to Francis and his order.

Viewed as a whole, *Brother Sun, Sister Moon* is not that great a film, but the stunningly beautiful photography and costumes overcome most of the flaws.



Australian songstress Helen Reddy and Texan songwriter Mac Davis will appear at Pershing Auditorium Friday.

Reddy is best known for "I Am Woman," "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Crazy Love" and "Peaceful."

"In The Ghetto," "I Believe in Music" and "Watching Scotty Grow" were penned by Davis and recorded by other singers. Davis' first hit single was "Baby, Don't Get Hooked on Me."

Light Orchestra jumbles rock, string combination

Electric Light Orchestra II. Electric Light Orchestra, United Artists (US-LA040-F).

The idea behind ELO is a merger of heavy metal-rock with orchestral arrangements. In theory that sounds like a mildly innovative and exciting concert. The danger is in ending up with a rock album with a few timid, token string accompaniments. Or ending up with Muzak.

This record escapes that trap. Instead it's a boring, endless jumble. I hope nobody decides to merge strings with a recording of a mudslide, because I doubt that I'll be able to distinguish it from this.

Four of the five songs on ELO II are Jeff Lynne compositions and they are all pretty irritating. Lynne deserves to be taunted unceasingly by groups of tattered prechins for foisting this on the public. The fifth song is "Roll Over Beethoven" and any band that can make one of Chuck Berry's songs dull must be either deaf or evil.

Bart Becker

Last Chance Dance. Cat Mother, Polydor (PD 5042)

Cat Mother, you probably remember, had a minor hit single four or five years ago called "Good Old Rock 'n' Roll." On the strength of the single they released an album of mostly rock tunes.

Then they kind of retired. A few years ago they surfaced for an album called *Albion Doo Wah*. It was more countryish than the initial album, but the public didn't grab onto it much, either. Now here they are again.

Rumor has it they are laid back guys and *Last Chance Dance* is full of fairly well-done pastoral songs. A medley comprised of a song called "Outdoor Man" tossed in with "This Land is Your Land" and "Roll Wheels Roll" sounds really good. And they've made a delightful selection of "Side by Side" to end the album.

B.B.