

Band goes indoors tonight

The UNL marching band moves off the football field Friday to sit for a concert in Kimball Recital Hall at 8 p.m.

Band director Jack Snider said the concert will be three parts. The first part will feature popular marches familiar to American audiences.

It will be followed by a variety of popular songs in marching band arrangements.

"The Scarlet and Cream", "Good Old Nebraska U" and other Nebraska fight songs will make up the final part.

Throughout the program, a narrator will relate the history of the marching band and tell about its planned trip to Europe next spring. The trip itinerary includes Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Holland and England.

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Playhouse comedy stars UNL grad in true-life role

By Val McPherson

Don Baker is blind. He is living away from the security of his family for the first time, and is still very much in love with the girl who left him two weeks ago. These may seem to be unlikely ingredients for a comedy, but Leonard Gershe's play *Butterflies Are Free* at the Lincoln Community Playhouse may convince the skeptics.

The part of Don Baker is played by Robert Thurber, a former music and speech major at UNL. Besides being active in local productions by the Gaslight Mellerdrainers and the University Summer Repertory Theatre, Thurber has spent two seasons with the New London Barn Playhouse in New Hampshire.

When an actor who has never been blind must play the role of someone who is, authenticity and believability are an enormous stage problem. Bob Sidal, the supervisor of Rehabilitation Services for the Blind in Lincoln, has been working with Thurber so his acting will appear natural. Thurber also has met the man whose experiences are the basis for the character of Don Baker.

The action in *Butterflies* takes place in Don's apartment on East 11th Street in New York City. He has just moved from his family's home in the suburb of Scarsdale to a small efficiency to compose the music which he hopes will propel him to fame and fortune.

Unfortunately, his artistic endeavors are interrupted by his over-protective mother's phone calls and the radio from the next apartment. When he requests the radio be turned down, enter the girl next door.

Jill Tanner has also just moved in. After her marriage of six days went sour, she left Los Angeles and came to New York to be an actress. Although Jill is slow to realize Don

is blind, she is much faster when it comes to seducing him. Jill sees herself as someone out for a good time and has no need of ties or commitments. However, she is not yet a talented enough actress to hide her loneliness from Don.

Jill Tanner is played by Amy Thelander, a UNL freshman and journalism major. This is Amy's first appearance at the Playhouse, but she has been active in the past at Southeast High School and in the Pinewood Bowl productions.

Don has made a deal with his mother when he left home that she is not to visit him for a month. One day she "just happens" to be in the neighborhood, which is the other side of New York, and decides to surprise him. Instead, she surprises herself by finding her son with a divorcee.

Mrs. Baker, played by Patsy Davidson, is at first hostile towards Jill, but slowly they develop a strained respect for each other. Davidson is no stranger to the Playhouse. She has been involved on stage and behind the scenes for 15 years.

The cast is rounded out by Pat diNatale in the role of Ralph Austin, director of the play Jill gets a part in. He is the stereotype of the young, off-Broadway playwright who considers himself an underrated genius who will someday revolutionize the theatre with nudity and profanity.

Director John Wilson calls the play a "delightful, happy circumstance of an excellent script of a good story, with an experienced and dedicated cast." But don't take his word for it. Student tickets are only \$2.60, and reservations can be made over the phone.

Butterflies Are Free will run tonight, Saturday and Sunday and for the next two weekends. Curtain time is 8:30 Friday and Saturday, and 7:30 Sunday.

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