

'The King and I' opens tonight

By Dennis Ellermeier

Rogers and Hammerstein's "The King and I" which opens tonight at Kimball Recital Hall, will be the feature production this fall by the UNL School of Music.

The show opened 21 years ago in New York and this production will revive some of the characteristics that made the Broadway show so popular.

In addition to both the original costume and scene designs, the UNL production will feature the choreography that was conceived by Jerome Robbins for the 1953 show.

Choreographer's daughter here

In 1953 Yuriko Kikuchi was given the job of realizing Robbins' directions and now in 1974 her daughter, Susan, has assumed those responsibilities here. She has been on campus for a number of weeks teaching the parts to the dancers and offering general choreographic direction.

Susan Kikuchi has been associated with "The King and I" since childhood. She has played all the children's and dancers' roles in production throughout the United States and Europe.

The sets were adopted to the Kimball stage by the opera program's set designer, Tom Kasker. Last year Kasker was the designer for the Omaha Playhouse.

"The King and I" is based on Margaret Landon's novel "Anna and the King of Siam." An English widow and her son are brought to the Siamese royal court in the late 1860s to introduce Western customs and ideas to the king's wives and children. The lines of affection are quickly established with Anna, and the king's family but the battle lines are as quickly drawn between Anna and the king himself.

Authoritarian king

At a time when slaves were being emancipated in the United States, Anna cannot convince the king to lessen his authority.

Underneath the struggle of Anna to bring the king to a social consciousness there develops the tender love story of Tuptin, one of the king's wives and his servant Lun Tha.

The cast also features a dozen fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Brownell Elementary School playing princes and princesses.

Anna is played by Lynelle Frankforter and the king is portrayed by Chip Smith.

"The King and I" plays October 11, 12, 18, and 19 at 8 p.m. and at 3 p.m. on October 13. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2.50 for students.

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Paul W. Klipsch was born in 1904, in Elkhart, Indiana. He received the B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering from New Mexico college for Agricultural and mechanical Arts in 1926 (now New Mexico State University), and the E.E. from Stanford university in 1934.

Mr. Klipsch has written many papers and holds patents in the fields of geophysics, firearms, etc. He is a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society, Fellow of IEEE, Member of the Acoustical Society of America, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi, and is listed in Who's Who in Engineering.

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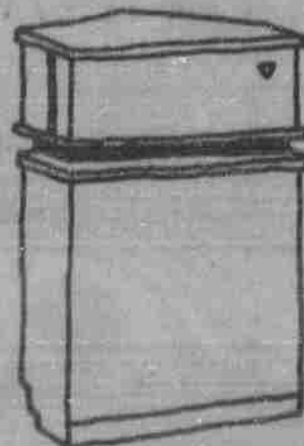
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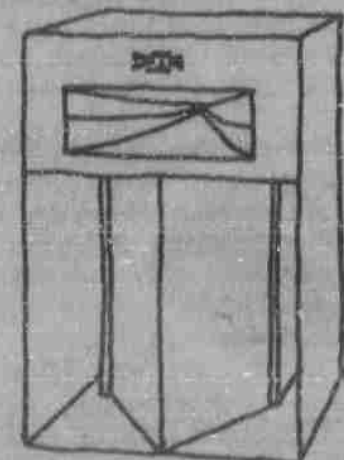
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