



Gypsy tale of love woven in 'Carmen'

By Lynn Roberts

The story of gypsies, tramps, thieves and love will unfold when the opera "Carmen" comes to stage at Kimball Recital Hall this week.

The opera, a production of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UN-L) opera class, is directed by Roger Stephens.

"Carmen," one of the most popular operas, was chosen for that reason and also because of the people available to play lead roles, said Richard Grace, musical director of the opera.

Most everyone has at least heard the name "Carmen," and is familiar with some of the music, said John Brandstetter, house manager at Kimball Hall.

The cast will include 17 fifth and sixth graders who will play poor village boys in the opera.

Carmen a gypsy

The opera tells the story of Carmen, a gypsy girl, who has taken into her charms a guard corporal, Don Jose, who has renounced the love of his village sweetheart, Micaela, for Carmen.

During a quarrel Carmen wounds one of her companions and Jose is ordered by his captain, Zuniga, to arrest her. Jose lets Carmen escape and is imprisoned.

After Jose is released from prison he is forced to join a group of gypsy smugglers, of which Carmen is a member, when Zuniga orders him to leave Carmen.

Josen, who takes no interest in the smugglers' actions, begins to regret his decision to join them. Carmen, who is beginning to tire of him,

torments him and advises him to return to his mother.

Jose meets Escamillo

While guarding stolen goods Jose meets Escamillo, who claims he is there to meet his sweetheart, Carmen, although she has resisted his advances.

Jose is then summoned by Micaela to return to his dying mother and as he leaves warns Carmen they will meet again.

In the final act Jose and Carmen meet and he begs her to be his. She scorns his attempts and tells him she loves Escamillo.

Colorful costumes rented from Brooks-Van Horn of New York add contrast to the striking set designed by Don Yanik.

Spoken in English

Brandstetter said they are not performing the traditional "Carmen" in that there will be spoken dialogue and it will be done in English.

The cast includes: Rick Brandt, Don Jose; John Brandstetter, Escamillo; Brad Kroeker, Zuniga; Dale Ganz, Morales; Lynelle Frankforter, Carmen; Jane Mathew, Micaela; Carol Penterman, Frasquita; Sara Ganz, Mercedes; Vaughn Fritts, Dancairo; Chuck Vail, Remendado.

A chorus of more than 40 rounds out the cast.

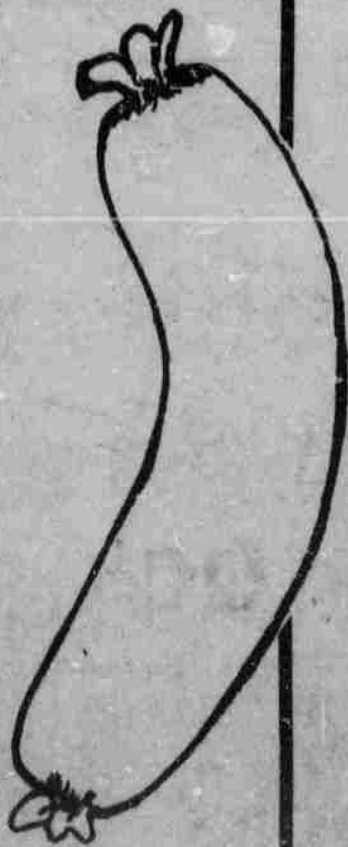
Frankforter, Sara Ganz, Brandt, Mathew and Brandstetter will be making their last appearance at Kimball Hall as UN-L students.

"Carmen" will be at 8 p.m. July 10 and 12 and at 3 p.m. July 13. Tickets are \$2.50 for students and \$3.00 for general admission.

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