

# Burst of energy saves 'Lucky Lady'

By Ryan Scott

When confronted with the dreary opening forty-five minutes of director Stanley Donen's latest film, *Lucky Lady*, I thought about writing my first unfavorable review. But the film quickly became more engrossing, and the result is well worth the admission price.

*Lucky Lady's* three-star billing is unique. Any of the three main stars individually represents a major box-office attraction.

In the film, Claire (Liza Minelli), Kibby (Gene Hackman) and Walker (Burt Reynolds) form a three-way

partnership to take advantage of the prohibition era's get-rich-quick illegal rum running.

The shared dangers and successes of rum running quickly dissolve the partnership into a loose and curious love triangle. Relationships among the trio provide much of the movie's comic relief.

Though none of the three delivers particularly outstanding performances, each has a moment or two of excellence. Reynolds, the most amiable and amusing of the three characters, is particularly enchanting in a brief scene in which he strums a ukelele and serenades in a soured state.

Hackman engages in a humorously conceived, name-calling and one-bettering bout with a Coast Guard commander.

Minelli opens with "Get While the Gettin' is Good," proving that critics need to search for someone better than her late mother for comparison.

In a publicity release, Minelli said her role is "the best part written for a woman in the past five years." Such a statement naturally invites comparison with her *Cabaret* performance three years ago.

Her performance in the latter is the more refined characterization, but it is doubtful that anyone could have done a more credible job as Claire in *Lady*.

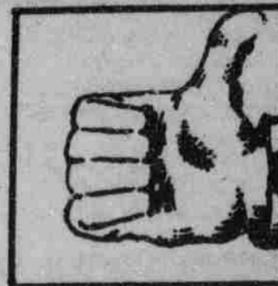
Minelli is one of Hollywood's few outstanding female actresses today and it is worth seeing the movie for her performance alone. She probably will get an Academy Award nomination because her role was one of few substantial female roles in 1975.

The movie's pace is worth comment. Slow in catching, the film never really takes off until the trio's first successful bootlegging run.

The change comes with a contagious burst of energy

characterized by Minelli's moving rendition of the title theme, "Lucky Lady." The film sails through its remaining hour until a sudden outburst of violence drastically alters the smooth progression.

From that point, the audience is drawn into complete emotional involvement with the characters. Both cast and



audience receive relief from the quickly injected serious overtone and the spectacular sea battle climax.

Except for the surprise moment of violence, the film never loses its comic appeal. This fact may be attributed to the three actors' comedy styles.

*Lucky Lady* is highly entertaining, easily ranking among the better films currently showing in Lincoln. Don't worry about standing in long lines though. The slow start makes it possible to buy tickets well into show-time without missing much of the story. By movie's end, you'll be glad you decided to come.

Critics note: The "thumb's up" sign this movie rates indicates that the movie is high caliber. Shrugging hands will indicate mediocrity. "Thumb's down" will indicate a poor film.

## arts & entertainment

### Music, acting; it's 'Fantastick'

By Charlie Krig

The current Lincoln Community Playhouse production, *The Fantasticks*, truly is. The play, which opens on Friday and was previewed at its Jan. 20, dress rehearsal, is one of the best to appear at the Playhouse in recent years. It owes most of its success to a fine cast.

The actors achieved rapport with each other and the audience. Their uninhibited joy in performing made the evening lively.

Two newcomers to the Playhouse stage were most notable. Ron Rusthoven gave flair and style to his portrayal of the bandit El Gallo while Mike Schawang gave a vibrant performance as Amos.

Robin Bates, another newcomer, displayed a fine sarcastic wit. Veteran Lincoln area actor Clair Rickel gave added meaning to a role that seemingly was written for him.

The musical concerns two families who live next-door. Each has a meddling father, but one has a 16-year-old daughter and the other a "nearly 20-year-old" son.

The two are in love and wish to marry but fear their fathers' rejection. The fathers resort to devious plans to bring them together.

The humor is in the fathers' realization that by appearing to say "no" to the relationship, the youths will grow closer. This is presented in one of the play's better songs, "Never Say No," where one father admits "that what you say no, the children must have."

Other musical highlights are the play's famous tunes, "Try to Remember," "I Can See It," "Soon It's Gonna Rain" and a marvelous dream-like dance number called "Round and Round."

Also deserving compliments are lighting and set designers Sybil Shaw and Don Yanik. Their imaginative creations emphasize the play's themes that life can appear dream-like, and our own fickle natures keep us from truly understanding it.

The cast did an admirable job singing, too. No doubt the best was Bob Kastanek as Matt the young man, whom UNL students will remember from *The King and I* last spring.

However, the other cast members, Dan Newton, Scott Root, and Don Pedersen, and pianists Phoebe Hamon and Jean Patoka, blended well under direction of John R. Wilson to help make it a fine production.

*The Fantasticks* will play at 8 p.m. from Friday through Sunday, and Jan. 30, 31, Feb. 1, 6, 7, and 8 with 2 p.m. matinees the last two Sundays. For reservations, call 489-9608.

### CAIS hosts folk singer

A concert by folk singer Floyd Westerman, sponsored by the Council of American Indian Students (CAIS) will be Friday at 8 p.m. in the Nebraska Union Centennial Room.

Westerman, a Santee Sioux Indian from South Dakota, has recorded such songs as "Custer Died For Your Sins," "B.I.A.," and "Red, White and Blue."

CAIS President Harlan Chamberlain said the concert, a fund-raising activity, is the first of several they have planned.

Tickets are available at a booth in the Union north lobby and from all CAIS members. Tickets cost \$2.50 in advance and \$3 at the door.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Mike Schawang, left, and Don Pedersen, right, play two devious fathers in *The Fantasticks*.



Photo by Steve Bosner

Jackie Lipsky, whose living room doubles as an art gallery on weekends for local artist's work.

### Weekend gallery displays local art in a private home

"A place was needed for people's art," Jackie Lipsky said. And so she started the Home Gallery, 2528 C St., two years ago last November.

It now displays the work of 40 artists, chosen by her, and features one artist each month.

"I choose art and artists that I like," Lipsky said. "I choose for my own tastes because I have to live with it."

The gallery is her living room. Lipsky said art looks better in a home environment, helping prospective buyers decide how it would look in their own home.

Lipsky currently is enrolled in several UNL art courses and said she spends free time working on her own project, print making.

Gib Neal, who received his bachelors and masters of fine arts degrees at UNL, is this month's featured artist. His silkscreens and lithographs will be exhibited until Feb. 7. Neal was awarded the Thomas Coleman Memorial Fellowship in 1974 and the Woods Memorial Award of Merit in 1975 while teaching at UNL.

The gallery is open Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and can be visited by appointment by calling 477-1904.