

Photos by Dave Wesely



Steve Jarret, John Merriman, Chris Wineman, Jim Jorgensen, Chip Smith.



Kevin Hofeditz, Don Juan, uses 'skills'.



Cathy Schenkelberg, Chip Smith.



Director Tice Miller discusses "Exit Don Juan" with playwright Allen Nielsen.



David Boughn, Kelly Ellenwood.



Steve Jarrett listens to confessions of Dona Elvira, played by Amy Endres.

## Don Juan opens at UN-L tonight

BY FRED SPEARMAN

The Nebraska Repertory Theater production "Exit Don Juan" is a new experience for both cast and public, according to production director Tice Miller. The musical is adapted from an original script by former Nebraskan, Allan Nielsen.

The Repertory group usually selects a crown play, Miller said, but the selection of "Exit Don Juan" gives the cast an opportunity to interpret an entirely new production.

The first performance will be July 15 at Howell Theater, Temple Building, 12th and R, with other performances July 18, 19, 29, 30, and Aug. 3, 4, 12, 13. All performances begin at 8 p.m.

Tice Miller, professor of theatre, has directed summer productions over the last 11 years. Miller was instrumental in starting the musical and producing it this summer, according to Nielsen.

The play began over a year ago, Nielsen said, and has gone through two readings in New York theaters. It was originally intended for studio production but was transformed into a full repertory production by Miller, Nielsen said.

"Exit Don Juan" is a musical comedy satirizing how a public celebrity becomes a pop-culture mass media hit.

In the musical an impersonator of Don Juan is killed by an angry husband. Don Juan uses this circumstance to get away from his wife and an army of creditors. After remaining "dead" for a year he finds

his legend so distorted that he has a hard time adjusting.

Nielsen is a 1977 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in theater writing. Presently, he lives in New York and works for an advertising agency.

Two other Nielsen productions, "Portraits" and "Homefront" were produced by the Repertory Theater in 1975 and 1976. Nielsen wrote the music and lyrics for both productions with David Bell writing the script.

Nielsen has been in Lincoln for two weeks of practice and has re-written two of the acts, and created one new song and an overture. The music is classical with Spanish rhythms.

Kevin Hofeditz, who will be a voice and acting instructor at UN-L this fall, will play the lead role. Hofeditz was a professional actor for three years with the Missouri Repertory Theater.

Amy Endres will appear as Elvira, wife of Don Juan. Leporello, Don Juan's servant, will be played by David Landis, state senator and Lincoln lawyer.

Others in the cast include: Mabelle Bebensee, Dave Boughn, Kelly Ellenwood, Donna Harler, Constance Hill, Steve Jarrett, Jim Jorgensen, Dan Marderosian, John Merriman, Cathy Schenkelberg, Chip Smith, Julie Uribe, Christopher Wineman and Michelle Wylie.

Musical director is Chip Smith. Choreographer is Constance Hill, Heidi Hayes is conductor, Ed Stauffer is scene designer, Jan Stauffer is costume designer, and Tim Mooney is juggling and fencing coach.