

# 'Evening's' parts better than sum

Review by Shelley Sperry

One of the most serious pitfalls a director faces in constructing a musical or theatrical experience is making the production more than the sum of its parts. Unfortunately, Gregg Tallman, UNL's associate professor of opera theater, was unable to make his hour-long production of *An Evening in Paris* transcend the status of a faculty-student recital.

In theory, Sunday afternoon's performance should have been an exciting, innovative one which could have set the stage for future experiments in UNL music and theater. Considered individually, the concepts were sound but the ambiguity of the whole defeated them.

The performance took place in the auditorium of the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, which provided a space more intimate than Kimball Recital Hall and less grim and spartan than Westbrook's recital room. The mixture of comic and tragic, solo and multi-voice pieces complemented the informal mood. Tallman's explanatory narration between selections was a valuable addition, and was neither too complex nor too simplistic for the very diverse audience in attendance.

Several superior voices highlighted the "evening." Judy Cole Shannon, associate professor of voice, sang a selection from Jules Massenet's *Werther*. Her expressive features and mezzo-soprano voice rich with emotion emphasized the desperation of the lovelorn aria.

Following Shannon, Kelly Ellenwood, Jeanne Baker and Brian Leeper engaged in some broad comedy and boisterous duets, solos and trios in their scene from Gaetano Bonizzetti's *La Fille du Regiment*. Besides her surprisingly powerful soprano voice, Ellenwood's chief attribute continues to be an overwhelming stage presence and ability to rivet the audience's complete attention.

In spite of a few giggles of recognition from the audience, the traditional "Toreador Song" from

Georges Bizet's *Carmen* was performed with a strength and confidence not seen often in young baritones. Greg Berg's clear enunciation, perfectly rolled "rrrs" and emotional phrasing made the entire concert worthwhile. Berg was last year's Metropolitan Opera Auditions winner.

*An Evening in Paris* suffered not from lack of talent, but simply from lack of definite purpose.

Opera's distinguishing characteristic is its grand scale of production. With minimal sets, one piano, makeshift costumes and very little room in which action could take place, the Parisian evening was doomed to failure as an operatic performance, but its selection of scenes and attempted staging were equally inappropriate for an informal recital.

## Hot Dog . . .

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Another monumental blunder in *Hot Dog* is the presence of former Playboy Playmate Shannon Tweed. Tweed woodenly portrays Sylvia, a ski circuit groupie. In a performance amazingly similar to Christie Brinkley's in *Vacation*, Tweed seems much more enthusiastic about taking her clothes off than she does about saying her lines.

This film is bad, but there are some bright spots. As mentioned before, the skiing scenes are excellent. One can say that as an actor, Houser is a great skier. Watching some top-flight skiers hot dogging it around the mountain is definitely the highlight of the movie. *Hot Dog* starts with a fine downhill run, which seems appropriate since the film progresses constantly downhill from there. By the time the "Chinese Downhill" is run in the film's unclimatic ending, the audience is wondering why they are watching this dog of a film.

# HOTSPOTS

### Television

• *Arthur*, the smash comedy starring Dudley Moore and Liza Minelli, will air tonight on Channel 7, beginning at 7 p.m.

### Radio

• Reggae fans can tune in to Herb Bultz's *Reggae Only* program. The 90 minute show begins at 7:30 p.m. on KZUM (89.5 and 99.3 FM).

### At the Union

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Male Roommate/s to share house. \$125/month includes all utilities. On bus route. Call 467-2904.

#### announcements

Info meetings for the UPC spring break trip to South Padre Island will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 7 & 9 at the City Union and at 6:00 Feb. 8 at the East Campus Union. Mandatory to attend.

Ed Homez as a waltzing Viking? Only at the MARDI GRAS FASCHING COSTUME BALL. This Friday, Hilton Ballroom. Tickets on sale at Nebraska Union.

Pi Mu Epsilon National Math Honorary is now recruiting members. Applications may be picked up at 811 Oldfather and are due February 24. Applicants must have completed Math 206.

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**ASUN EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES**  
A mandatory meeting of the Presidential, 1st Vice Presidential and 2nd Vice Presidential candidates will be held February 6, 1984 at 5:00 p.m. in the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union. Please contact Marlene for any additional information.

We'll answer all your questions about the spring break trip to S. Padre Island at the info sessions Feb. 7-9.

★ ★ ★  
Be exotic! Be absurd! Be naughty! Come as your fantasy and dance to the Larson Brothers Band. Merdi Gras/Fasching Costume Ball Friday night at the Hilton. Tickets now on sale.

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**FREE!**  
An evening with Daniel Heifetz, internationally acclaimed violinist. Listen to and meet Danny in person. Thursday, Feb. 9, Harper Lounge — 6:30; Sandoz Lounge — 8:00. UPC/MPAC.

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**Study Abroad**  
The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) offers UN-L students in various fields opportunities around the world. For information, contact the Institute for International Studies, 1033 Oldfather Hall (472-3076).

**WOMEN IN PERSPECTIVE**  
Presents:  
"PALM READING"  
By Dr. Pat Ralenne  
February 7, 12:30 p.m.  
— Room 117, Union —  
Free and open to public.

The Publications Board will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Daily Nebraskan office.

Pi Lambda Theta  
Speaker on mainstreaming Tuesday, Feb. 7th at 6:00 in the Union. All are welcome.

★  
NU Meds Meeting  
Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6:30, Union  
Guest Speaker:  
Deanna Hutchins, MD, OB-GYN

★  
AMS  
Meeting Wednesday, Feb. 8  
6:30 in the Union  
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**PRE PHARMACY CLUB**  
Rem. Harris Labs. Tour is Thurs., Feb. 9th at 5:00 p.m. New members welcome and please pick up a questionnaire at the Life Science Advising Center in Mantor Hall.

**College P.E.O.s**  
Meeting Sunday, Feb. 12 at 5:00 p.m. Call Cathy, 477-5701 or Janet, 475-0105 for reservations by Thursday.

**ATTENTION STUDENTS**  
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