

# 'Comic' opera satirizes males who liberate from authority

By Bill Allen  
Senior Reporter

Tonight's opening performance of "Albert Herring" marks the second time around for director Gregg Tallman, a professor in the Opera Theatre School.

While at the University of Maryland, Tallman directed the comic British opera set to music by one of England's best-loved contemporary composers, Benjamin Britten.

Britten died in 1977, but his friend who played Albert in the play's original stage production worked with Tallman on the Maryland production.

Tallman said he learned a lot from that experience and, as a result, this opera production should be much bet-

ter than the previous one.

"It's rare that you get a chance to work that close to what the composer intended," Tallman said.

"Albert Herring" takes a comic look at male liberation in Victorian England. The straight-laced officials of a haughty English village can't find a girl virtuous enough to be their Mayday queen, so they pick prim and proper Albert as a king instead. However, he lets them down with a shameless springtime fling after consuming a liberal dose of lemonade laced with rum.

Tallman said "Albert Herring" is "not a typical opera," and described it as "more like a play with music."

"It's terribly funny. Albert is a college-age person breaking free from authority. He's got kind of a screw society attitude," Tallman said.

The opera will be sung entirely in English.

Tallman mentioned two performers who should be notable in the performance — John DeHaan, who plays the lead, and Pat Mason, as Sid, who recently returned from a tour of Paris, Brussels and London where he sang a work by Steve Sondheim.

Performances are at Kimball Hall tonight and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

A half hour before each performance Tallman will give background information about the show and play excerpts from the score in Westbrook Music Building Room 110.

Tickets are available at the Kimball Box office (2-3375) and are \$7 and \$5 and \$5 and \$3 for students, children and senior citizens.

## Comics get chance

# Cablevision seeks 'funniest person'

By Paul Morin  
Staff Reporter

The second annual campaign to find the funniest person in America begins for Lincoln tonight at The Fizz, 826 P St.

The campaign is sponsored by Showtime, through Lincoln Cablevision, with the help of radio station KFRX and The Fizz.

Steve Cardwell, marketing manager for Lincoln Cablevision, said there will be four semifinal contests starting tonight and running for four consecutive Thursdays. He said each semifinal winner will receive a color TV and a trip to Chicago and the Comedy Shop, along with a chance to compete in the finals on May 9th.

A video cassette recorder will be awarded to the winner of the finals. Cardwell also said that each contestant's act will be filmed and the film will be sent to New York for the national competition. It doesn't matter

how each comic fared in Lincoln.

"Anybody still stands a chance of winning nationally," Cardwell said.

Cardwell expects four or five comics to perform during each semifinal, beginning at 8 p.m. and ending at 10 p.m. He said the only requirement for the comics is that they sign a release form (permission to be filmed) at the Cablevision office. He mentioned that all comics should sign their release form as soon as possible.

During these contests, there will be give aways, including albums and Hall & Oates tickets.

Last year, Jeff Weak, who played the character of "Rollin' Ray Dietzel," won the title of Funniest Person in Lincoln. He won a free trip to Las Vegas.

The title of Funniest Person in Nebraska was awarded to Pat Hazell of Omaha. He was given a pie-in-the-face trophy and his film was shown, in various short clips, on Showtime nationally. He was also declared by Showtime to be one of the five funniest persons in

America.

Jeff Weak said this year's competition promises to be stiff.

"There's a lot of great comedians around," he said.

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