

# Arts & Entertainment

## 'I Do! I Do!' insightful play on marriage

By John Lechner  
Staff Reporter

When contemplating, at my advanced age, a drive to Omaha for pleasure or

### Theater Review

entertainment, it might as well be a bus ride to Cleveland — it's not some-

thing I care to do. However, I was glad I made the trip when I ventured east Friday night to the Firehouse Dinner Theatre. It was my first visit to the Firehouse, and if every production is as good as "I Do! I Do!," I've waited entirely too long.

Dinner is served at Harrigans, a restaurant neighboring the theater. Diners are given a choice of Chicken Cor-

don Bleu, Shrimp on a Skewer or Prime Rib. It's also possible to get a show-only ticket.

When purchased with a show ticket, the dinner is not expensive. I had the Prime Rib, and my companion had the Shrimp. Both were good. Dessert and drinks are served in the theater itself. There were no prices on the menu, so I was cautious and didn't order dessert. I

was surprised to learn that for \$3.50 I'd purchased the glass my juice came in. By the way, gratuities are not included in the price of the dinner.

The entertainment starts with the Firehouse Brigade, singing waiters and waitresses. Their musical revue of the history of radio was clever, well-paced and short. The voices were good, the musical arrangements pleasant. They signed as well as sang the last song, "We Are the World." Although I profess to be tired of the song, I still got a tear in my eye.

"I Do! I Do!," the main show, is a musical about marriage. While I'm personally not into that particular institution, it didn't keep me from enjoying the show. I thought about my parents and about my own attempts at relationships.

As the musical took me through 50 years of a couple's togetherness, it gave me pause several times; to compare, to empathize, to feel. It made me think about things like sacrifices for children, and how deep the love between two people can grow. I laughed a lot too, sometimes through slightly misted eyes.

Theater-owner Dick Mueller and New York actress Patricia Kies made a charmingly believable couple. They were such good actors that they didn't get in the way of the play. The beauty of the dialogue seemed to flow right through them.

The actors themselves didn't distract at all from what the characters

had to say. If a lot of work went into "constructing" their characters, it didn't show. As much as an audience member can, I was caught up in the drama, sweetness and humor of their relationship.

I especially liked Mueller as Michael. When his wife spoke, he listened, he didn't just pretend to. When the script called for him to be nervous, he was nervous — I could see his Adam's apple bouncing up and down. His pliant face indicated well a rich "inner life." A good thing, as close as we were to the stage. Both actors were "there" at all times — their thoughts as well as their bodies. There was no drifting off, no uncertainty about what they were saying.

I liked the play itself — no needless dialogue. Crisp, clean writing. The many songs were likewise enjoyable; nice melodies, harmonies, and never superfluous to the action of the play. Both actors sang very well, Mueller in a rich baritone. Kies with everything from a sweet, lyric quality to a razzmatazz belt.

"I Do! I Do!" has a lot to say about relationships. I recommend it for anyone, and a ticket to it might make an especially nice Christmas or anniversary gift for your parents.

This evening full of dining and entertainment runs through January at the Firehouse Dinner Theatre in Omaha's Old Market district. For reservations and information, call 346-8833.



Hansen is made up for Halloween.

Dan Dulaney/Daily Nebraskan

## Thingsville offers tricks, treats for spooks in search of costumes

Analysis by Laura Hansen  
Staff Reporter

On Halloween night, ordinary people will turn into something else. Whether you do it for a party, or if you still think people will give you candy if you go door to door, a lot of

people will be turning into their own THING.

Deb Harr, a UNL sophomore business major who works at Thingsville in the Centrum, said you can make your own costume for under \$30.

To see how true this was, I went

to Thingsville to see what I could be. It turned out to be pretty scary business.

Harr, with the help of fellow employee Jamie Cox, a UNL freshman art major, showed me just what they could do with a little face paint and a rubber snake.

Harr said that Halloween merchandise is the main money maker for Thingsville.

"Halloween and Big Red really bring people in," Harr said.

Cox said that Halloween is a limited market. "Few places have this much stuff, at this cost," he said.

Harr said that this year they are stocking a lot more accessories. "People want to pick and choose," Harr said.

Cox said they probably have the widest selection in town of Halloween accessories, including everything from spider webs, fingernails, the all new pig-nose plus hair and body paint in a rainbow of colors.

This year Thingsville calls its Halloween campaign "make your own thing," and I think they proved it.

Even without any of the more expensive wigs they made me look quite frightening.

Harr said they don't always have the time to make people up, although they enjoy it. However, she said, they always show a person how to apply the makeup and how to take it off. They also have many ideas about how to have the most fun with it, she said.

Thingsville has everything imaginable for Halloween, and people can find everything they need for a night or maybe more.



The finished costume.



Courtesy Firehouse Dinner Theatre

Mueller and Kies in "I Do! I Do!"

## New Diana Ross album filled with diversity

Dan Dulaney/Daily Nebraskan

the charts and all I have to say is Why? This is one of her best releases ever.

I must admit that when I opened the album and saw that Barry Gibb helped write every song on the album, and his brothers Andy, Maurice, and Robin also helped in writing a few of the songs, I thought it would be Ross sings the best of "Saturday Night Fever," or the Gibbs would try to match her pitch. Both thoughts are equally scary. Thank God the album did not have these problems.

On this record Diana seemed to experiment with many different musi-

cal styles. "Chain Reaction" has a bouncy '60s sound, "More And More" has Ross singing torch, and on "Eaten Alive" we have disco rock...pretty diverse.

The ballad "Experience" is a beautiful song, and Ross has never sounded better. There is one really annoying song that I really hate to see my needle drag through called "Oh Teacher" (it even has a stupid title). It tries to be sexual and funky. Needless to say it comes off sounding ridiculous. But this is the only problem song on the album.

If you're wondering if the Gibbs sing on the album, yes they do, but they do not overshadow Ross at any time. I could not be more thankful. It wouldn't be so bad if the Gibbs would sing in their own key, but it seems that they enjoy singing three octaves above their natural voice...sad, sad, sad.

I thought this album would be a disaster, Titanic style, but I was wrong. Ross has indeed surprised me. It is an excellent piece of work, and it's just a shame the charts don't reflect that. One thing to remember is that this

album is angled at older Ross fans, who want a little romantic music in their life.

G.P.A. 3.59  
Diana Ross, "Eaten Alive Extend Mix," RCA.

The new word for this year seems to be "Extend Remix". Most music stores have them, so I feel they are equally important to review. After all, they do range in price from \$3.99 to \$5 and most people want to know if it's worth it..

Please see ROSS on 8

By Randy Schummer  
Staff Reporter

Diana Ross, "Eaten Alive," RCA.

### Record Review

Let's face it, Diana Ross looks like she's in her 40s as much as I look 65. She has graced the music charts since The Supremes. Her newest single "Eaten Alive" (written by Michael Jackson and Barry and Maurice Gibb) is bombing on