

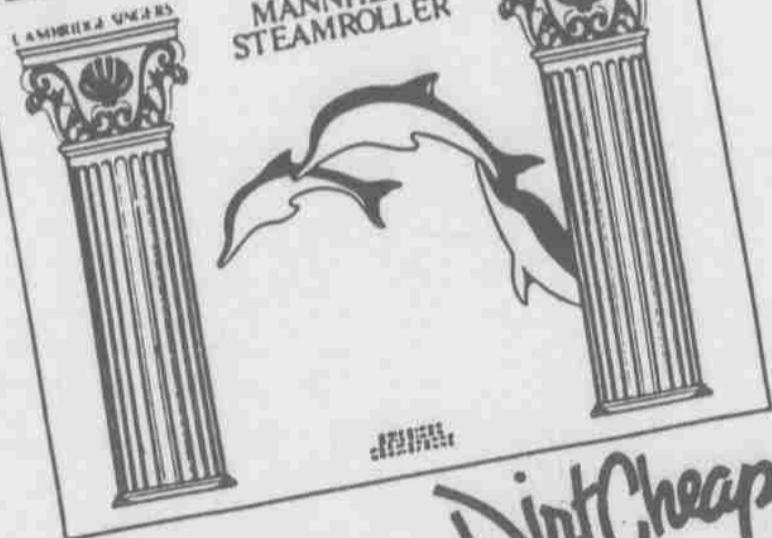
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'Celebration'
Musical opens Oct. 9

"Celebration," a musical filled with eye-pleasing pagentry that is a lyrical elegy to youth and to life itself, will open the 1986-87 season of the University Theatre and Dance Company.

Theater Preview

The play, in which an engaging group of singers and dancers celebrate spring solstice, will open Thursday, Oct. 9, and will be presented Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10 and 11, and Tuesday through Saturday, Oct. 14 through 18. Curtain time for each performance is 8 p.m. in Howell Theatre.

Director Kevin Paul Hofeditz said he chose "Celebration" for performance this year "because it is colorful, thought-provoking and entertaining."

"Best of all, it gives lots of opportunities for the talented dancers, actors and singers in our musical theatre program of study. It's energetic, with each performer needing to be able to 'do it all' and make 'it all' look easy," he said.

"Celebration," by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, originally appeared on Broadway in 1969. Since then, it has been frequently produced all over America.

The theme of the musical is hope. The play dwells in a land of enchantment. From the first song, a celebration of the solstice when the sun stops receding and starts to climb high in the sky, the play moves

onward in song and dance through the cycle of seasons, ending where it began, with a new year to be celebrated and the cycle renewed.

A play within a play symbolically pits idealistic youth and purity against age, wealth and power, according to Hofeditz, who has appeared in several University Theatre productions and directed the musical "Grease" during the season's 1984-85 season.

"Celebration" features Kent Lindemer, a senior theatre arts student from Papillion, as Orphan, a shy youth with a dream of love and goodness in his heart. Roxanne McCosh, a senior in music theatre from Gering, appears as Angel, a slightly tarnished angel with break-away wings who longs to become "somebody," preferably in show business.

Angel is pursued by Rich, played by Brent Schawl, a graduate student in theatre arts from Lincoln.

More evil is Potemkin, played by Morten Hasnen, a graduate student in theatre arts from Erie, Pa. Potemkin is a cynical and magical rogue who finds it practical to accommodate the evils of the world. His songs, "Survive" and "Not MY Problem" sum up his less than honorable point of view.

"Celebration" has a colorful cast of singers and dancers that also includes Jeff Adams, a freshman theatre major from Omaha; Jill Anderson, a sophomore theatre major from Lincoln; Yvonne Anderson, a junior music theatre major from Nebraska City; Kyle Clark, a sopho-

more theatre major from Lincoln; Shelly Curry, a sophomore dance major from Lincoln; Mike Hruska, a sophomore theatre major from Sidney; Robin Falls, a freshman music theatre major from Lincoln; Steve Lewis, a freshman theatre major from Lincoln.

Also performing are Joetta Haase, a sophomore dance major from Lincoln; Steve Lorenzo, a junior theatre major from Sterling, Colo.; Shaun Harner, a sophomore music theatre major from Cedar Creek; Joe Sampson, a sophomore theatre major from Central City; and Jackie Wheeler, a senior dance major from Tekamah.

Musical director for "Celebration" is Chip Smith. Jerry Bevington and Nancy Brestel are choreographers. Smith is visiting assistant professor of music in the UNL School of Music. Brestel is visiting assistant professor of dance at UNL, and Bevington is a UNL assistant professor of dance.

Susan Rempe, a graduate student in technical theatre and design from Osceola, is set designer for the production. Ed Stauffer, associate professor of theatre, is lighting designer. Costumes are by Jan Stauffer, associate professor of costume design and stage makeup.

Tickets for "Celebration" are on sale at the Temple Building box office. Box office hours are 12 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 5 to 8 p.m. on performance nights. Telephone reservations can be made by calling 472-2073 during box office hours.

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Warriors coach Harold Jackson, known as the "meanest man on skates," says his team refuses to be intimidated and will make Valladares' final appearance a miserable one.

The same bitterness was shown by Warriors captain Nancy Grand, better known as "Baby Grand" because of her size. The 200-pound "Baby Grand" delights in rolling over her smaller opponents. However, according to a press release, the T-Bird women claim they have some surprises for the Warrior's Grand.

Tickets are \$10.25 for reserved seating, \$8.25 general admission with a \$2 discount on general admission for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the auditorium, Brandeis and TIX.

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