

Comic revenge joins music in operetta

By Julie Naughton
Senior Reporter

After an eight-year absence, "Die Fledermaus," a 19th-century operetta outlining the comic revenge taken by an angry man, will return to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln tonight.

The operetta was last performed in Kimball Recital Hall in 1982, and was Kimball's largest-selling show, according to Associate Professor of Music David Bartholomew.

Bartholomew said the plot shows how "a baritone, dressed as a bat, trying to play a joke, can get even

with a tenor."

Bartholomew explains that after a masquerade party, baritone Dr. Falke (played by Tim Konvalin and Duane Andersen), is left asleep by his friend, the tenor Eisenstein (Daniel Kurek), on a park bench.

Falke is awakened the next morning by a jeering crowd. He decides to take his revenge by taking Eisenstein -- who should have reported to jail that day for a minor offense -- to a ritzy ball sponsored by Prince Orlofsky (Yvonne Anderson). This move is designed to embarrass Eisenstein, through an elaborate scheme of deception.

According to Bartholomew, the first act lays out the plot and "sets you up for the joke that will be played on Eisenstein."

Act 2 continues to set up the joke,

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but in the middle of the act, everything stops for the entertainment of the guests. During the ballroom scene in this act, Bartholomew said, entertainment designed to amuse the cast members and the audience traditionally is featured.

The entertainment tonight will be The Ensemble from the Opera Omaha. Saturday's entertainment will be Lincoln ballroom dancers Don and Polly Andersen. The Sunday performance will feature a 25th birthday tribute to the Folsom Children's Zoo and students from the Nebraska School of Gymnastics will perform.

Act 3 is the culmination of the plot, and it winds up with "interesting political statements."

Music for the operetta is by Johann Strauss Jr.

"The plot is a shell to hang beautiful music on," Bartholomew said. "There is dancing and lovely sets as

well."

Bartholomew describes the show as a "wonderful, upbeat operetta."

"The real joy of the piece is the music," he said. "The music is like bubbly champagne, everything we'd like to think of Vienna as being."

Performances are 8 p.m. tonight and Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday. Receptions will follow the performances tonight and Saturday.

Tickets for "Die Fledermaus" are available by calling the Lied Center box office. Ticket prices are \$10, \$8 and \$6; half-price for students and youth under 18. Reception prices are \$5.

Intimate play 'Body Leaks' inspired by theater's past

By Julie Naughton
Senior Reporter

On the surface, the Omaha Magic Theatre's new play, "Body Leaks," explores life in a flooded Brazilian rain forest.

According to the director/co-au-

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thor, the story actually is a metaphor for the human experience.

Director/writer Jo Ann Schmidman said the plot explores "the personal journey of human beings opening themselves up to new experiences."

"In this particular piece, the dramatic action is inner conflict . . . that's a little different. The action isn't going from place to place physically, it's going from place to place

inside your heart and soul and brain. The plot is about people relating to each other, and to themselves."

The action begins in a green-leafed hut, where polka-dot dresses are worn by the native survivors to control the flood levels. The polka-dot wearers constantly are tested by the environment, from torrential rain to beaded sweat. Inflated dots are the financial exchange. Loud-colored dots, because they are uncensored, make the greatest change.

The natives make their way through a path of overgrown vegetation to follow the other survivors to Tinian Island -- "where wind dots the mind and the land mines meet." There the survivors discover that it is no longer necessary to wear protective headgear.

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Music entering sixth decade

Veteran guitarist Kirkland to play in Lincoln

By John Payne
Senior Reporter

Veteran guitarist Eddie Kirkland is likely to attract the hard-core blues fans to Bourbon Street, 200 N. 70 St., tonight. Born on a Jamaican cotton plantation, the 64-year-old Delta Blues king has provided studio backing for the likes of James Brown and Otis Redding.

Kirkland's music now is spanning

into its sixth decade, and all reports seem to indicate that he isn't slowing up a bit. Known for his fierce harmonica playing and trademark turban, it has been Kirkland's unconventional approach to Blues riffs that have influenced guitarists like Robert Cray.

1989's "Have Mercy," Kirkland's first American release in more than 15 years, wooed critics and re-affirmed his stature in the Blues world.

The resurgence of Blues enthusiasts have caused many Kirkland albums like 1962's "It's the Blues Man" to be in great demand recently. And

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Kirkland has gone through a re-emergence of sorts himself lately.

"When I hear about Robert Cray,

I think of my bad luck," a somewhat resentful Kirkland said in a press release. "I've been doing that stuff for years, funk'n' the blues up."

With the success of "Have Mercy," Kirkland's mainstream popularity finally may arrive, something he welcomes after years of watching artists like Otis Redding and Greg Allman turn his songs into hits.

"Quite a few people have recorded my songs without giving me credit,"

Kirkland says. "But I don't feel that another person can feel the spirit I feel in my songs."

Having put past disappointments behind him, Kirkland currently is on an extensive American tour to further promote "Have Mercy."

Those with a sophisticated musical palate can catch the Jamaican Bluesman at Bourbon Street at 9 p.m. tonight and Saturday. Cover charge is \$3.

Once again, Lincoln gets irreverent, smoldering music to fill the week

By Mick Dyer
Senior Editor

An Ecology Now benefit, nationally acclaimed blues acts and good local music highlight this week of live music in Lincoln.

Alternative:

Saturday, four bands will play a benefit concert for Ecology Now at Duffy's, 1412 O St.

Leafy Green Things is a highly motivated, local, four-piece, grunge rock outfit with a real flair for the irreverent. Good stuff.

Sam the Butcher plays post-apocalyptic, industrial-tribal rhythms on found objects, such as steel drums, buckets and pipes. Its sound is supplemented by electronically distorted messages repeated over and over again by tape-loop. And primal screams punctuate its sound. Combining all the essentials of primitive-modernism, Sam the Butcher is American shamanism at its finest.

Such Sweet Thunder is a Kearney-based, star-spangled-guitar, musket-throat and drum corps with a clear sound and a strong back-beat. Such Sweet Thunder is leaving Sept. 1 for

a tour of Britain and Europe.

Cool Riddim also will play. Sunday, the Wild IQ's will play rockabilly at Duffy's.

Wednesday, For Against and Craig Neitfeld will play at Duffy's.

For Against is a local, dark-pop, electric quartet.



Craig Neitfeld is a local acoustic and classical guitar virtuoso.

Country: Tonight, the Sandy Creek Band will play bluegrass at Sweep Left, 815 O St.

Jazz/Blues: Tonight and Saturday, Eddie Kirkland will play at Bourbon Street, 200 N. 70th St.

Tonight and Saturday, Upstream will play at the Mountains, 311 S. 11th St.

Tonight and Saturday, Bugs Hen-

derson and the Shuffle Kings will play at the Zoo Bar, 136 N. 70th St.

Bugs Henderson and the Shuffle Kings is one of the top exponents of Texas blues currently on the circuit. He is known for effortless, breathtaking guitar work and his gutsy, blues-soaked vocals. Bold and spicy Texas blues played by one of the men who has helped shape it for more than 20 years now.

Saturday, Charlie Burton and the Hiccups, arguably the best R&B/blues/New York-style rock band to emerge from Lincoln will play at Barry's, 235 N. 9th St.

Monday, Mothers Big Band will play big band brass jazz at Bourbon Street.

Monday through Thursday, Magic Slim and the Teardrops will play at the Zoo Bar.

Magic Slim and the Teardrops need no introduction around here; it's been the Zoo Bar's "houseband" via Chicago's south side since 1975. Smoldering, passionate blues.

Wednesday, the C Street Gypsies will play at Bourbon Street.

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Magic Slim Courtesy of the Zoo Bar