

OUTLOOK

& A&E WEEKEND OUTLOOK

about

TOM MAINELLI

Talented students 'unmask' abilities

Looking for a little variety this weekend? How about a 16-act talent show for the low, low cost of only \$5?

Saturday night the Nebraska Masquers will present "An evening with the Masquers," a variety show at the Howell Theatre in the Temple Building, 12th and R streets.

The show will feature dancers, comedy sketches, speeches and a multitude of talented musicians and singers, said Dean Houser, a senior theater major and president of the Masquers.

"It is a real eclectic group of performers," he said.

The variety should appeal to most people who are interested in the arts, which is what the Nebraska Masquers organization is all about.

The organization is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Houser said. For 47 of those years, the group was populated by only theater students. In the last few years students from other arts-related majors have also joined. This year the organization has opened its membership to anyone interested in the arts.

"We are an arts organization that represents students who want to participate in or just support the arts," he said.

The open policy on membership has helped to increase the group's numbers,

Houser said. Currently there are about 25 active members — and the group is always looking for more.

The Masquers don't receive any financial support from the university, so fund-raising events like Saturday night's show, as well as frequent bake sales, are necessary if the group is to carry out its various activities, Houser said.

Much of the money the group raises goes toward the creation of workshops. University students, with assistance from faculty members, put together acting, comedy and music workshops which they present to area high schools and other interested groups.

"We will put together a workshop on just about any aspect of the arts that people are interested in," Houser said.

Funds are also used towards participation in the American College Theatre Festival, he said.

The festival is a scholarship program that reviews student artists and picks contestants for regional and national competitions, Houser said.

While the fund-raising aspect is important, it is definitely not the only reason for Saturday's show, Houser said.

"It really gives us an opportunity to showcase our talents," he said.

The show begins at 8 p.m., and will be preceded by an art show featuring the works of local artists in the Howell Theatre lobby. Tickets are available Saturday.

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Hairy, scary

Lincoln's haunts offer thrills, chills, giggles and gore

By Paula Lavigne
Staff Reporter

Do you have too much pride to throw a sheet over your head, knock on a stranger's door and yell "trick or treat" in the hope you will receive a soggy caramel apple?

Other Lincoln haunts can provide a less humiliating way to enjoy the Halloween season, and they range from funny to frightening.

One such alternative is "The Chamber of Terror," 1023 O St., sponsored by the Lincoln Jaycees and KFRX-FM, 102.7.

Coleen Warner, Lincoln Jaycees president, said the haunted house was in its 19th year. Work began on this year's production in June.

"We figured it took us 5,000 manpower hours of work before we could open," she said. "It takes us 30 volunteers per night to run the house."

Warner said committee chairmen with 21 years of experience in creating haunted houses visited houses in Kansas City and Chicago for new ideas every year.

The permanent location of the Chamber of Terror is what makes the house unique, she said.

"We can do more with it since it is a permanent location with permanent fixtures," she said. "We have 15 rooms, and we can reconstruct four or five rooms a year."

Warner said new additions this year include an electric chair, a wax museum, beast cages and cemetery exhibits.

"It is definitely supposed to be scary," she said. "Let's see, Saturday night we had three people wet their pants. It's kind of a victory on our part."

Warner said the Chamber of Terror attracts a wide variety of customers, ages 13 to 30.

"Basically, it attracts people who want to be scared," she said. "Some run out screaming, some laugh. It depends on your mood."

The Chamber of Terror runs Wednesday through Saturday, from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. on weekdays and until midnight on weekends and Halloween. Admission is \$5.

Another Halloween attraction is The Asylum, located at 12th and Q streets, next to Spaghetti Works. The Asylum is sponsored by the Lighthouse Foundation for "at-risk" teenagers.

Pete Allman, Lighthouse director, said the draw to The Asylum involved more illusions than actual fright quality.

"It doesn't just have the element of scared," he said. "It's scared and weird."

Features of The Asylum include the Living Head, who narrates the travel through the upcoming maze. Other attractions include the human sacrificer, human shishkabob, sewer man, and the guillotine.

"The main attraction is the Mad Doctor's room," Allman said. "The scariest part is the maze with the strobe lights."

"It's a good place to take a date, because the female usually gets scared," he joked.

Allman said The Asylum had attracted a number of college students.

"They like it a lot," he said. "We had the woman's basketball team down here. Afterwards, they talked about who screamed the loudest and who was scared."

The Asylum is open from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on weekends. It is closed on Mondays. Admission is \$5.

For a variation from the standard haunted house format, the Ride of Terror, behind the Acreage Gift Shop, 2601 Saltillo Rd., features a hayrack ride through a haunted forest.

The Ride of Terror is sponsored by the Lincoln Sertoma Club, dedicated to funding for community service projects.

Craig Rosenberg, a member of the Sertoma Club's Special Projects Board, said the Ride of Terror was different from other Halloween-related events.

"It's different from other 'spook' things," Rosenberg said. "It's outdoors. It's not in a barn or a house. It's a forest. It's also cheaper."

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