

Business offers cure for mall-sick

Halloween apparel available at Ruby's



By Bryce Glenn
Staff Reporter

Second-hand clothing — it's not just for budget shoppers anymore.

"Shopping for second-hand clothing isn't really a question of low income anymore," said Jennifer Johnson, owner and manager of Ruby Begonia's, 2322 O St.

"I think it's just kind of smarter."

"I don't think people are as eager to go mall shopping as they used to be," she said.

Ruby Begonia's, which opened last April, offers a variety of men's and women's vintage clothing from suits and dress clothes to jewelry and hats. Although most of the items in the store come from the 1940s and 1950s, modern streetwear such as jeans, boots and flannel also are sold.

The former UNL student said she got most of her inventory from estate sales and auctions. She said the uniqueness of the styles, the quality tailoring of older clothes, and the low cost combined to make Ruby Begonia's a great place for students to shop.

A few items of vintage furniture also are on display, and Johnson said she planned to increase her stock in the future.

"I think anyone can find something in here," she said.

Those still searching for a Halloween costume may also want to stop by, as Johnson has displayed clothing articles that can be used as to create devils, angels, gangsters or flappers.

Although Ruby Begonia's is Johnson's first business venture, she said she was no stranger to the retail business.

The 22-year-old began collecting older clothes about 10 years ago and her interest led her to her employment at several of Lincoln's vintage clothing stores.

Eventually, she worked her way up to the manager position at the Haymarket's Second Wind. That is when she first kicked around the idea of opening her own store.

"I never really planned to do it," she said. "But I had so much stuff of my own that I had collected forever and ever that I thought I better either go into business or seek therapy."

Once Johnson made up her mind to act on the idea, it wasn't long before it became



Jennifer Johnson owns Ruby Begonia's, a vintage-ware clothing store at 2322 O St. She said the name of the store comes from a character portrayed in black vaudevilles.

Therese Goodlett/DN

reality. She said it took her only a month to find space for the store, and a month after that she was ready to open.

Johnson, who was born and raised in Lincoln, said the city was unique among most campus towns in that it was not teeming with small, student-oriented businesses. She added, however, that recent develop-

ments had been encouraging.

"It's nice to see places like A Novel Idea and Eyes of the World opening," she said.

"There's a lot of smaller, younger businesses cropping up all over the place, and I'd like to see them be successful because it makes Lincoln a more interesting place for students."

Philharmonic to take stage at Lied Center

Concert preview

By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

Friday night, the Lied Center for Performing Arts will be filled with the sounds of the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra.

Renowned pianist Ruth Laredo will perform with the orchestra, which will be led by conductor and music director Kazimierz Kord.

Kord, a native of Poland, has served as the Philharmonic's music director since 1977. For the last 30 years he has made numerous guest appearances with some of the world's finest orchestras.

Laredo, a three-time Grammy winner, has been hailed as "America's first lady of the piano" and has collaborated frequently with the Tokyo String Quartet.

The Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra ranks among the finest ensembles in Europe. The orchestra was formed in 1901 and achieved success early. By the beginning of World War I, it had risen to prominence as one of Poland's leading musical institutions.

Between the two world wars, the orchestra performed with many of the greatest conductors and soloists of the era, including Pablo Casals, Vladimir Horowitz and Igor Stravinsky.

The orchestra lost nearly half its members with the advent of World War II, but was re-established during the 1947-48 season. Seven years later, the Warsaw Philharmonic was honored with the title "National Philharmonic Orchestra of Poland."

Friday night's program includes pieces from composers Sergey Rachmaninoff, Sergey Prokofiev and Andrzej Panufnik.

Panufnik's powerful works were banned in his native Poland until 1976. In 1990 he received an award for his contribution to Polish culture.

Panufnik's Symphony No. 10 was commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1988 for its 100th anniversary.

Following Panufnik's Symphony No. 10 on the program is Rachmaninoff's Concerto for Piano No. 1 in F sharp minor, Op. 1.

Russian composer and pianist Rachmaninoff was a 19th-century composer who wrote lush, romantic epics.

There will be a short intermission before the orchestra returns to the stage to perform selections from Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet."

The performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Lied Center Box Office.

Battle between the generations highlighted in 'Tango'

theater preview



By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

With a steady beat of political and social turmoil, together with a few dips of comedy and drama, "Tango" opens Thursday night in the UNL Temple Studio Theatre.

The play, written by Polish playwright Slawomir Mrozek, represents the second show of the University Theatre Arts and Dance 1993-94 season.

The action of the play revolves around an unusual family. The constantly changing directions of the tango — the dance — are the metaphor for this action.

Arthur is a conservative son who is appalled by his parents' wild ways. He seeks a return to the rigid ways of old.

"You've poisoned the generations before you and after you with your freedom! No order, no sense of reality, no decency, no initiative ...," he says to his parents.

His mother Eleanor's actions seem to substantiate his viewpoint. She has

an affair with Eddie, a vulgar hooligan, while Arthur's father Stomil looks the other way.

Stomil's actions also are peculiar. He passes the time writing avant-garde plays while Arthur's grandmother loses the grocery money playing cards.

Arthur's dream of a solid, orderly family seems impossible to realize. He decides the only way to re-establish tradition is to marry his cousin Ala.

Julie Hagemeyer, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln theatre arts graduate student and company manager for the Nebraska Repertory Theatre, said the play straddled the line between comedy and drama.

"There are moments of comedy and tragedy blended together," she said. "You find yourself laughing and then wondering why because it's tragic."

The generation gap is a thin disguise for Mrozek's intricate mix of political commentary and social satire.

"I think it is very thought-provoking," Hagemeyer said. "It challenges how we view our roles in the world."

This, she said, is due to the conflict of ideology between Arthur and his parents.

"It's kind of a reversal, because normally you'd think the child is the

liberal one, but here he wants to bring form and order back into the family," Hagemeyer said.

The production is directed by Alexander Gelman, UNL assistant professor of theatre arts. Assistant Professor Dee Hughes set the dance choreography, while Assistant Professor Paul Steger choreographed the fight scenes.

Two UNL fine arts graduate students contributed to the look of the production. Set designs were done by Tom Watson, and costume design was by Christine Wendell-Chapman. Marsha Mueller, a UNL theatre arts undergraduate, provided the lighting design.

The cast is made up almost entirely of fine arts graduate students: Jonas Cohen (Arthur), Mark Klemetsrud (Stomil), Kristi Covey (Eleanor), Jason Richards (Eddie), Julie Fitzgerald (Arthur's grandmother, Eugenia), and Jeremy Kendall (Arthur's Uncle Eugene.) Michelle Eckley, a freshman theatre major, rounds out the cast as Cousin Ala.

The show opens Oct. 28, and runs Oct. 29, 30 and Nov. 2-6. All performances begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Theatre/Dance box office on the first floor of the Temple Building.



James Mehling/DN