

'Up With People' cast learns around the globe

SPOTLIGHT

By Paula Lavigne
Staff Reporter

For Christine Polig, the decision to postpone college made way for a different type of learning experience.

Polig, a graduate of Alexandria High School in Alexandria, Minn., plans eventually to attend Hamline University in St. Paul.

Until then, she has been touring the United States as part of the "Up With People" program. The group will perform at Lincoln Northeast High School Thursday night.

"Up With People" is an international educa-

tion program with a mission to promote understanding between different cultures, Polig said. She said international development of leadership skills and awareness of national issues was the goal of the program.

"Up With People" represents about 700 people from 30 countries, Polig said. She said the individual shows were presented by casts of 150 students each.

"It's two hours of singing and dancing," she said. "We use different songs for a variety of current issues such as the family, education, environment, refugees and other world events."

The theme of this year's tour is "World of Motion," she said. Different programs from various cultures will be presented.

"It will be like a big news broadcast where the audience is the studio audience," she said. "The actors will be news reporters covering the issues of today."

Polig said that besides performing at North-

east High School, the cast will travel to local elementary schools to present its program. She said every trip was coordinated with a community service project with similar goals.

"The show is for all ages—everybody from young kids to older," she said.

Polig said she enjoyed her involvement in the show because she was exposed to so many different cultures.

"I really like the traveling," she said. "The big part is staying with the host families in different parts of the world. You really learn about their cultures."

Polig said her trip to Denver was the most exciting so far.

"We went to some of the worst high schools in Denver," she said. Several of the students were dropouts and had joined local gangs.

Following their tour of the United States, Polig and the rest of the cast are off to Europe after Christmas.

“You get to meet so many new people and hear many different perspectives.”

—Polig

cast member, "Up With People"

Polig said she encouraged anyone interested in becoming a member of the cast, ages 18-26, to talk to performers after the show.

"It is such a great opportunity," she said. "You get to meet so many new people and hear many different perspectives."

The "Up With People" program, sponsored by the Lincoln Community Concert Association, will be held in the Northeast High School gym Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. They are available at Maranatha Book Store, Havelock Bank and Union Bank.

Comedy explores problems of politics

theater preview



By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

America is always in a constant state of political turmoil. That's nothing new.

But Maxwell Anderson's play "Both Your Houses" makes that turmoil funny. The comedy opens Thursday at 8 p.m. in Temple's third-floor Studio Theatre, 12th and R streets.

When young Congressman Alan McClean heads to Washington, D.C., he finds himself in for a little bit more than he bargained for in his move.

The play follows the freshman congressman as he wades his way through the House of Representatives and attempts to battle the fiscally irresponsible habits of his colleagues.

Director Michael Solomonson said he thought the play was a mixture of both dramatic and comedic elements.

"Anderson, I think, when he wrote it, had an element of bitter sarcasm in it," Solomonson said.

He said the play didn't have the impact Anderson had hoped for when it was written, but it might have more validity today.

McClean is politically inexperienced and a complete idealist, Solomonson said.

"He's seen the suffering of the people in his district in Nevada, and he wants to do something about it."

McClean deals with many of the same issues people are struggling with today, Solomonson said, including excessive Congressional spending and the federal deficit.

Solomonson, a UNL theater arts Ph.D. student, cast both University of Nebraska-Lincoln students and local community members in this production of the 1933 Pulitzer-Prize winning play.

UNL student actors include Jeremy Blomstedt, Sara Bucy, Colby Coash, Jeff Knoedler, John O'Hara, Lamont Pfaff and Megan Salyards. Community members contributing their talents to the production include long-time local actor John Burkhardt, Bruce Burns, Les Edwards, David Koch, Don O'Neill, Paul Pearson, Peg Sheldrick and Bob Tallon.

Shows are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m., with an additional 2 p.m. performance Saturday.

Tickets are \$2 and available only at the door.



Courtesy of Columbia/RuffHouse

The rap group Cypress Hill will perform at Omaha's Mancuso Convention Hall, in the Civic Auditorium, Thursday night. Bandmembers, from left, DJ Muggs, Sen Dog and B-Real.

Omaha to take a hit from Cypress Hill

Concert preview



By Glenn Antonucci
Staff Reporter

Psychedelic rap kings Cypress Hill will swing through Omaha Thursday night, bringing with them a potpourri of supporting acts.

The show will be at the Mancuso Convention Hall in the Civic Audi-

torium and will include techno-funk Lollapalooza-ites Rage Against the Machine, girl rockers Seven Year Bitch and Los Angeles rappers Funkdoobiest.

Kevin Dochtermann, concert division vice president for Contemporary Presentations, said the combination was odd but promising.

"(Cypress Hill's) agency said, 'We know we've got the buzz of Cypress Hill, they're selling out nationwide, now let's put these others together,'" Dochtermann said. "It's going to be a killer show."

The tour, which kicked off Wednesday in Denver, supports

Cypress Hill's latest Ruffhouse/Columbia release "Black Sunday."

The album follows the band's self-titled debut, still treading water on Billboard magazine's Hot 200 chart after a year and a half. "Black Sunday" debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Top 200, selling a 250,000 copies in its first week.

Cypress Hill's popularity has spread almost as fast as the band's marijuana-loving reputation. The group's sedate-yet-powerful lyrics, delivered on top of a scatter of samplings, often speak of the band's open association with pot.

Members B-Real, Muggs and Sen Dog advocate the legalization

of the drug, both on and off stage. The band's stance has helped propel them to near-icon status among young music fans.

Dochtermann said he didn't expect the band's reputation, or the diverse fan bases among the four acts, to cause problems at venues on the tour.

"I don't think they're any different than any other acts," he said. "They're not just acts to get high to."

Tickets for the show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., are \$22. The Mancuso Convention Hall is located in the southeast corner of the Civic Auditorium.

Bedroom comedy begins at Howell Theatre

theater preview



By Anne Steyer
Senior Reporter

Deception and infidelity rule the roost at "13 Rue de l'Amour," a flat filled with love-life troubles.

Georges Feydeau's fun-filled farce, adapted and translated by Mawby Green and Ed Feilbert, opens Thursday night in Howell Theatre, 12th and R streets.

Paul Steger, UNL assistant professor of theatre arts, directs "13 Rue de l'Amour," a play that relies on quick pacing and perfect timing.

"It's pretty wacky," Steger said. He said the play was a broad, physical comedy, a wacky combination

that incorporated styles from W.C. Fields and Danny Kaye to Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton.

Part of the fun, Steger said, is catching all the characters in the act, in their underwear, with their pants down.

"It's a bedroom farce, it plays a lot of havoc with sex and running around," he said. "It's sheer entertainment and sometimes we just need two hours of laughter."

The story involves an intriguing ménage à trois, or perhaps, ménage à quatre.

Dr. Moricet (Dean Houser) tries his hand at charming the lovely Madame Duchotel (Amy Gaither-Hayes), the wife of his best friend (Patrick Tuttle), who is away on another of his frequent hunting trips.

Duchotel is tempted, but refuses, saying she cannot be unfaithful to her husband, at least not as long as he remains faithful to her.

“It's sheer entertainment and sometimes we just need two hours of laughter.”

—Steger

assistant professor of theatre arts

What she doesn't know, of course, is that her husband's hunting trips are nothing more than an excuse, decoys for his own affair with the wife of yet another friend.

Complicated? It gets more so. When Duchotel discovers Duchotel's deceptions and infidelities, she decides to take Moricet up on his scandalous offer, so she visits him at his flat. The flat, obviously, is located at 13 Rue de l'Amour—the same address where her husband rents his rooms for illicit love.

Other cast members include David Azizinamini (Jean Pierre), Troy Martin (Birabeau), Michelle Beamer

(Countess Von Spritzer), Shannon Marple (Marie) and Steven Shields, Mark Dickenson and Laurence Mota as the befuddled policemen seeking to sort things out.

Turn-of-the-century Parisian costumes were designed by student Eric Abbott. Sets were designed by Harry Traum V and lighting by Tom Watson.

Shows begin at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Productions resume after the Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 30, continuing daily through Dec. 4.

Tickets are available at the Howell Theatre box office.