

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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the Fine Print

Gerry Beltz

Series pits superheroes in battles

As kids, many of us discussed which comic book characters could beat each other in a fair fight, but we never had the chance to find out who would win because Spider-Man and Superman were from different comic book worlds.

So much for that.

Over the last few months, in an effort to pump up the comic book industry again, Marvel and DC collaborated on a four-issue series of comics devoted to looking at battles between the best each universe had to offer.

Among others, Superman and the Hulk go toe-to-toe, Batman and Captain America square off and Wonder Woman and Storm go at it.

In the latest issue, readers voted for whom they thought would win in a set of fights. Ballots could be entered by mail, at comic book stores or via the Internet.

The magnitude and extent of this series is an unprecedented move by Marvel Comics and DC, and is something a great deal of the public has wanted to see for some time.

Too bad the battles — and the series itself — sucks rocks thus far.

The people at DC and Marvel limited themselves to four issues to encapsulate fewer than a dozen battles, with many of those battles taking up fewer than two pages.

The Captain Marvel and Thor matchup over within only two pages? Puh-lease!

The best battle thus far would have to be Aquaman fighting fins with Sub-Mariner because they both like to kick butt.

Also because of the limited space, classic matchups were sorely missed. Green Arrow vs. Hawkeye, Hawkman vs. Angel and Dr. Strange against Dr. Fate are nowhere to be found.

Where is Daredevil during all of this? Being an avid Marvel fan (but growing into DC), I'm missing battles featuring some of my favorite characters, such as the Fantastic Four, Iron Man and (my fave) Daredevil.

Also missed is an opportunity to watch villains going at it, such as Deathstroke vs. Bullseye and Joker vs. Green Goblin.

It would be better to extend the series to six issues (at least), put in some battles with some beef to them and add a few more.

One good thing going on is that the characters don't have to beat each other into submission; just a 3-second pin is required, similar to that in wrestling. For the most part, however, people have been getting knocked out.

But interest will peak a week from now, when the Amalgam issues come out.

These will show what could have happened if both universes existed in the same time and space, utilizing such titles as "Legends of the Dark Claw," "Bruce Wayne: Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D." and "Spider-Boy."

Batman and Wolverine existing in the same body? With combined abilities and scarred psyche? Ewwwwwwww!

Each of these titles will be sold separately from the four-issue mini-series, and hopefully, the quality lost in the mini-series will be focused into these one-shot issues.

Beltz is a senior English education major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Senses of humor



Scott Bruhn/DN

An actor from the National Theatre of the Deaf performs for area students Wednesday afternoon at the Lied Center.

National deaf troupe will perform farce

By Patrick Hambrecht
Senior Reporter

Audience members attending the National Theatre of the Deaf's performance of "An Italian Straw Hat" shouldn't just clap during the curtain call. They should wave.

The Theatre program recommends, "If you like the show, wave! Deaf people applaud by waving their hands overhead, so that they can be seen by Deaf performers ... or try the two-in-one applause: Clap your hands while raising them overhead, so your applause can be seen and

heard."

From visual applause to sign language dialogue, the performers will deliver not just a new play, but a new culture, said Norah George, Lied Center marketing director.

The French farce tells the story of a Fadinard, whose horse eats a lady's straw hat on his wedding day. To avoid persecution, he must delay the wedding and find the only other identical hat in Paris, while still convincing his bride's doubtful family of his worth.

As in every farce, the plot

bounces from one "Three's Company" styled mix-up to the next, relying on the abilities of both sign and spoken language to garble and twist upon themselves. Fadinard is mistaken for a celebrated abstract painter, a hat shop clerk is mistaken for the mayor and a policeman pronounces the whole wedding party to be criminals.

All the while, the hat remains just out of the groom's grasp, much like Big Bird in the film "Follow That Bird."

All dialogue will be spoken and signed, with live off-stage dubbing

for non-speaking deaf performers.

One of the most multi-talented actors in the cast, Darby Jared Leigh, will play the bride's rural cousin, Bobby.

Before joining the deaf theater, Leigh was a member of the Wild Zappers, an all-deaf hip-hop troupe. He's also performed as a New York spoken-word artist and magician.

"An Italian Straw Hat" will begin at 8 p.m. Friday in the Lied Center. Tickets are \$22, \$18 and \$14, with a half-price discount for students of UNL, Wesleyan and Doane.

Couple touring once again

Duo proves opposites do attract

By Cherie Krueger
Staff Reporter

Barry and Holly Tashian are on the road again.

After taking time off to put together a book about life on the road with the Beatles, the Tashians are returning to the road as a couple.

Half of the country/bluegrass duet, Barry Tashian first received national attention when his rock group, Barry and the Remains, opened for the Beatles on its 1966 North American tour.

For 18 days his band took the stage before the legends of rock 'n' roll. It played in front of thousands of screaming teen-agers in baseball stadiums in 14 cities. Thirty years

later Barry Tashian is writing about the experience.

"I kept a journal during the 18 days, and it's based on that. It goes chapter by chapter, city by city, through the 14 cities," he said. "It consists of journal entries, photos and other fans' recollections."

He is nearing completion of the book and hopes to have it out by mid-July or August. The Tashians have taken some time off because of the book, but the time off has been worth it to the couple.

"For the last three months, we haven't done much touring, but now we are slowly starting up again since most of the work on the book is done," Barry Tashian said.

Although he performed in Lincoln once in the 1980s when he played with Emmy Lou Harris' Hot Band, this will be Tashian's first appearance here with his wife.

The Tashians, who hail from Nashville, Tenn., come from two very different and impressive musical backgrounds to form a duet that has won them respect in their field.

"We've been married for 20 years. We met in the eighth grade," Holly Tashian said. "He had a popu-

lar rock 'n' roll band in high school. "His girlfriend was my best friend in high school. We went to a lot of the parties and dances that he played at, so we've known each other for a long time."

She grew up in a softer, classical musical background, a strong contrast to her husband's rock background. Her mother was a classical music instructor.

Holly Tashian said the couple's differences in background really did not affect their tastes in music. Despite the differences, their tastes were actually very similar, she said.

"He has a sense of beat, and I have a sense of lyrics. It doesn't necessarily come from my classical side. It's just what I take an interest in," Holly Tashian said.

Barry and Holly Tashian will be performing Friday night at 7:30 at the United Church of Christ, 13th and F streets. The concert is sponsored by the Lincoln Association For Traditional Arts. Tickets are \$7 and \$6 for LAFTA members and are available at the door.

Indian to recite poetry

Maidu poet Janice Gould will read selections from her forthcoming book "Earthquake Weather" this Friday in the Nebraska Union ballroom at 3:30 p.m.

Gould, a Maidu Indian, is the author of the 1992 book "Beneath My Heart." She was also the recipient of the 1992 ASTREA Foundation Poetry Award.

The reading is designed to familiarize people with Gould's work, said Tisha Gilreath Mullen, a graduate student in English.

The reading is sponsored by Native American Studies, the Women's Studies Department, the Department of English, the Affirmative Action and Diversity Office and the Prairie Schooner.

A reception and book signing will follow the reading.

— Brian Priesman

Concert Preview

