

Musical tells traditional tale of Christmas

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voice, and Bill Shomos, assistant professor of voice and opera, are also in the performance.

Greg Tallman serves Abendmusik as the stage director for "The Nativity." He was professor of opera at UNL from 1980 to 1985, and considers this performance a homecoming since returning to Lincoln a year and a half ago.

The seven-scene musical is easy to follow, even if people are not into classical music, Buss said.

Tallman said "The Nativity" features a multi-media feast.

"The music's beautiful, the orchestra's beautiful, there are excellent soloists with beautiful costumes and lighting," Tallman said. "It's a feast for all the senses. Also, it's a very beautiful kind of a spiritual experience for this time of year."

Tickets are still available for both performances of "The Nativity" and can be obtained by calling 476-9933. They will also be sold at the door starting at 6:30 the night of the concert. Tickets cost \$9 for students and \$18 for adults.

Abendmusik will also hold a New Year's Eve celebration on Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. The Plymouth Brass will play jazz, Dixieland, pops and other music. Ticket for this performance may also be obtained by calling 476-9933.

Hollywood stars accuse China of censoring Dalai Lama movie

BEIJING (AP) — Hollywood stars have condemned China for trying to block a movie about the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, accusing Beijing of attempting to "impose worldwide censorship."

Barbra Streisand, Paul Newman, Susan Sarandon and Oliver Stone were among 41 celebrities who signed a letter sent this week to Chinese Ambassador Li Daoyu in Washington.

China has told the Walt Disney Co. it opposes plans to distribute "Kundun," a new film about the Dalai Lama, whom China accuses of trying to split Tibet from China. China annexed the Himalayan region in 1951.

China's objections were considered a veiled threat that Beijing would block Disney's plans to expand in the Chinese market if the company did not scrap the film. Last month, Disney said it would go ahead with the movie.

The celebrities' letter, released by Human Rights Watch-Asia, accused China of trying "to impose

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SHEN GUOFANG
spokesman for Chinese government

worldwide censorship on any artistic production that does not meet with official approval."

Government spokesman Shen Guofang said Thursday the letter's authors did not understand China's views or its film industry.

"The Chinese government and Chinese officials have never put any kind of pressure on Disney. We just hope Disney can carry out even better cooperation with relevant Chinese elements," he said.

Shen also added that in China, "there is no system of film censorship. China produces many films

every year without any censorship problems."

The letter — also signed by Bernardo Bertolucci, Jonathan Demme, Richard Dreyfuss, Spike Lee and others — listed a dozen Chinese government attempts in recent years to ban films or prevent filmmakers from working.

China prevented Stone from making a movie about Mao Tse-tung in China in 1993 and banned the Academy Award-winning Chinese movie "Farewell, My Concubine" in 1994 until substantial cuts were made.

Disney's No. 2 executive resigns

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that there is a position for Ovitz at the Japanese consumer electronics and entertainment company.

The Journal said Ovitz also met earlier this week with Viacom Inc. Chairman Sumner Redstone and left people at Viacom with the impression he was looking for another job.

Eisner has been chairman and chief executive of Burbank-based Disney since 1984, building on its theme park and family-movie base to create a worldwide powerhouse in film and television production, home video, broadcasting, sports, resorts and consumer products.

Before joining Disney, Ovitz had been mentioned as a candidate to run Universal Studios Inc. when Canada's Seagram Co. took it over from Japan's Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.

At Creative Artists Agency, which he helped build into Hollywood's top talent agency, Ovitz was known as Hollywood's pre-eminent packager of movies. But he was much more than just a top talent agent, serving as an advertising consultant for Coca-Cola Co. and an adviser to foreign companies looking to invest in entertainment.

Those deals included Sony's purchase of Columbia Pictures Entertainment from Coca-Cola, which turned out disastrously. Two years ago, Sony took a \$3.2 billion hit to earnings stemming from writeoffs at the studio.

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