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# One more time

## New 'Generation' returns to stage

By SEAN MCCARTHY  
Assignment Reporter

**Theater**

Encore. Last year's acclaimed family musical "From Generation to Generation" makes its return to the Jewish Community Center, 333 S. 132nd St., in Omaha. The musical, which made its debut at the same place, won the regional Theatre Arts Guild award for Outstanding New Script of 1996-97.

The performance tells the story of Rose (Myrna Robbins), a grandmother who is determined to make her impression on her unborn grandchild, even though she may not be alive when the child is born. Rose is dying of cancer when the play opens up, set in 1992.

Determined to make an impression, she creates an "ethical will" for her grandchild. The will aims to give wisdom to the grandchild through everything that Rose has experienced in her life.

Director Elaine Jabenis said the musical is not as sad as the premise sounds.

"We handle the theme in a very funny way," she said.

Mixing historical events and adding Rose's sentimental, humorous takes on life, "From Generation to Generation" received a standing ovation each time it was performed last year.

Jabenis wrote the play's precursor, a book by the same name, after hearing music composed by Karen Javitch.

Javitch later co-wrote and composed the music for the theatrical version. Jabenis said she was guided by the composer's music and words.

"Everything dropped into the scene has a clear meaning," Jabenis said. "It meshes beautifully."

Most of the production's staff from last year's performances returned for this and next week's

**"Everything dropped into the scene ... meshes beautifully."**

**ELAINE JABENIS**  
director

runs.

Jabenis said she made minor changes to tighten up the story. One included extending the role of a rabbi — played by Stan Widman — throughout the entire play. A new character, a comic angel, also was added. Jabenis said she was delighted so many people returned.

"We asked every cast member, some of the best actors in town, to return, and everyone came back," Jabenis said. "It's incredible."

Jabenis said the universal themes in "From Generation to Generation" are as evident as the religious themes. While Ruth tells of the horrors of the Holocaust, she adds that non-Jewish people, such as Oskar Schindler, were equally important to remember.

"We are all here to help take care of one another," Jabenis said.

"From Generation to Generation" opens tonight at 7:30. The musical will run Saturday and Sunday and Sept. 25, 27 and 28. Thursday shows begin at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students. Some of the benefits of the performances will go to the Westside High School Band, the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society and Prevent Blindness Nebraska.

## Music fest to feature 'roots band'

**ZERO** from page 12

A \$5 parking fee will be collected at the show. Alcohol will be permitted, however Nixon requests that people not bring glass bottles and leave pets at home. Also, camping is available at nearby grounds.

To reach the concert, take Interstate 80 west to exit 388. Travel 1½ miles south to the A and 154th streets intersection; go west 3/8 of a mile and look for the sign indicating where to park. Call (402) 795-2147 for more information.

## Protest to view movie classics in true medium

**MOVIE** from page 12

nudge), perhaps this format could occasionally see expansion into classic films — like "The Blues Brothers," "Top Gun" or "The Princess Bride" — that still have a faithful audience.

And don't even give me that crap about being able to rent the movie and watch it on your precious home-theater system in surround sound. That huge screen and digital-sound system just cannot be beat by anything you can buy at your local Best Buy, Mega-Mart or Circuit City.

In fact, I defy ANYONE to show me a home-theater system that can beat the experience of catching a movie in its original medium: the movie theater.

(How does that line go? "Often imitated but never duplicated ... ?")

This is a rare chance to have an active voice in how movie programming is done. Let's not let it slip past.

Who knows? With enough support, maybe we could even get an occasional midnight screening of "Evil Dead 2" or "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

Beltz is an English education senior and a Daily Nebraskan assignment reporter.

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