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face to face in western opera

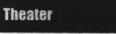
BY LIZA HOLTMEIER Senior Reporter

Calamity Jane and Annie Oakley star side by side in an opera this weekend.

professional touring ensemble of Bull, the railroads and Buffalo Opera Omaha, opens its season Bill's Wild West Show. with "Opera Goes West" at the Omaha Children's Museum ters soon form, but the train Saturday.

Jane Hill, Opera Omaha's executive director, and Hal France, artistic director and prin- with Annie Oakley and Calamity cipal conductor, created the production hoping to expand knowledge of the history of Nebraska and westward expansion.

The show features the characters Ms. Patti, Calamity Jane, Horace Tabor and Annie Oakley, together on a magical train, the "Way Back Engine." The train transports them from the 19th century to current-day Omaha.



the best of the situation with popular Old West and modern song. Nebraska's history plays a significant role in the production, and Heartland Opera Theater, the characters refer to Chief Sitting Friendships between the characforces them to return to the Old arts, including opera," France West.

> "There's a really neat scene Jane," said Liesl Jeffrey, marketing coordinator. "It's the whole ing coordinator. "It's the whole The opera will feature 'Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Heartland Opera Theater Soprano Better,' and shows what would have happened if these two legends had met."

In addition to its focus on history, the opera focuses on the role of the arts in westward expansion.

"When settlers moved their families west in the 1880s, they The group attempts to make also brought their culture and museum admission.

There's a really neat scene with Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane."

> LIESL JEFFREY marketing coordinator

said. "Singers such as Adelina Patti toured the country, performing at opera houses such as Boyd's Opera House in Omaha."

Anne DeVries as opera legend Adelina Patti. She will perform popular opera songs from the 1880s, with a medley of arias, opera medleys for solo voices and instrumental accompaniment.

"Opera Goes West" starts at 11 a.m. Saturday and is free with

