

# Omaha heralds holiday opera

By LIZA HOLTMEIER  
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — Instead of watching "It's a Wonderful Life" for the billionth time on television this year, try Opera Omaha's own Frank Capra-esque offering — "Home for the Holidays."

Heartland Opera Theatre, Opera Omaha's young professional resident company, will debut "Home for the Holidays" next week at Bistro At The Market, 406 S. 12th St., in Omaha's Old Market district.

"The plot is sentimental in a Frank Capra kind of way, in that all the characters make discoveries and transformations," said Jane Hill, Opera Omaha executive director.

Hill wrote the script for the musical, which features holiday music ranging from traditional carols to musical theater.

Hill said the touring company's second production of the season traditionally had been a concert touring the state. This year, however, Opera Omaha wanted to perform in Omaha,

## Theater

she said.

Hill decided to create a musical appealing specifically to Omaha residents. She set the play at the Eppley Airfield in Omaha and included surprise cameo video appearances by well-known Omaha residents.

"I think all of us have airport or other travel nightmare stories similar to this story," Hill said. "Omaha audiences will respond well to the production set in Omaha and to characters with whom they can empathize."

The musical takes place on Christmas Eve in the cocktail lounge of the Eppley Airfield. A nun, a toy salesman, a bartender, a TV anchorwoman and a cocktail pianist are stranded together because of a blizzard.

Liesl Jeffrey, Opera Omaha marketing director, said the airport setting allowed Hill to create interesting and humorous dialogues between the varied characters while communicating a poignant message about the holidays.

The cast features two stars from Opera Omaha's recent production of Don Pasquale — soprano Margaret Lloyd and baritone Curtis Olds. It also includes Omaha soprano Anne DeVries, San Francisco baritone David Cox, Omaha Daena Schweiger, and pianist Peter Clogg, Opera Omaha's resident music director.

Jeffrey added that "Home for the Holidays" was also the first production Opera Omaha will perform at the Bistro.

"Around the holidays, we get so rushed between shopping and social events," Jeffrey said. "We wanted to do a dinner theater-type setting where you don't have to run between the restaurant and the theater."

"Home for the Holidays" runs Dec. 5-7 and Dec. 11-14 at the Bistro. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. with an 8 p.m. curtain. Prices are \$39.95 per person on Thursday and Sunday and \$44.95 per person on Fridays and Saturdays. Admission includes the show and a buffet-style dinner. For reservations call the Opera Omaha Box Office at (402) 346-7372.

# Society wants everyone to appreciate art, culture

■ The Art Historians group was formed to educate all students, not just art majors, about art and its place in their lives.

## Involvement

By JOEL CHRISTIANSEN  
Staff Reporter

For any student who ever wished to understand a campus sculpture but didn't know how, there's hope.

The Art Historians Society is a student organization aimed at promoting art awareness and appreciation among University of Nebraska-Lincoln students. Although the society may be especially attractive to art history majors, membership is not restricted to art students.

The group's first meetings were organizational, but interest has been high, said society president Angie Stutheit. Students of music, architecture, accounting and business have attended, as well as art majors, Stutheit said.

Elaine Leonard, one of the group's leaders, said one of the society's goals was to overcome the elitist stigma attached to artists' groups.

By providing a forum for discussion of art, including campus sculptures, the society wants to give students exposure and access to art both on and off campus. Society meetings are held about twice a month.

Topics of discussion at these meetings include research currently being done by members of the UNL faculty, Stutheit said. The society also organizes field trips, attends guest lectures and exhibit openings. A behind-the-scenes tour of Omaha's Joslyn Art Gallery is being organized

for next semester. Also, associate art professor Michael Hoff will lecture on his research involving Turkish Roman architecture next week, she said.

Through these and other activities, the society hopes to expose its members to current work in the field of art history and offer students experiences they will not find in the classroom.

Although the Art Historians Society is dedicated to the study of art, the privileges of membership are not just academic, Stutheit said. The society provides a social setting in which art history majors and other students can meet new people with similar interests. Society meetings may be a good place for students to discuss art and share ideas while getting to know each other, she said.

A society meeting or guest lecture is also an ideal time and place for students to interact with their professors outside the classroom, she said.

Andrea Bolland, art history professor and director of the society, said art history classes consist largely of slide shows and lectures, with minimal discussion. Participation in society meetings gives students a chance to actively discuss art with faculty in a more personal environment than the classroom, she said.

The group's final semester meeting will be Dec. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the west end of the Nelle Cochrane Woods Art Building basement. For more information, send e-mail to [sarthist@unlinfo.unl.edu](mailto:sarthist@unlinfo.unl.edu) to contact the group.

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# The Cramps turn inside out

CRAMPS from page 9

Interior said. "(However,) the people that are shocked by us seem so boring and uninteresting to me that I am not interested in shocking them."

Like any worthwhile band on the fringe's of rock culture, The Cramps are occasionally subject to possibly damaging rumors — such as they might be dead.

"Two times there has been a big rumor going around that I'm dead," Interior said. "The last time it was a drug overdose; my room was full of flowers."

Never experiencing much commercial success, the densely structured, country-salted punk rock forged by The Cramps has influenced such modern artists as The Reverend Horton Heat and Jon Spencer. Although it would be easy to see why

Interior would be resentful of the success of these bands, he loves their music, saying they are keeping rockably alive and in a state of flux.

"One of the things I am proud of with our band is that people started finding this stuff and created a subculture, and our band played an important part of that," Interior said.

Tickets for Friday's all-ages Ranch Bowl concert are \$13 in advance and \$14 the day of show. Demolition Dolls and Japanese rock trio Guitar Wolf will open the 9 p.m. performance. And, Lux Interior doesn't want to be the only one in heels.

"You should come out there prepared to have a good time," Interior said. "You don't need to know any philosophy; we are a simple rock band. (But) it helps if you wear sexy clothes."

# University Health Center

## Thanksgiving Holiday Hours

November 26	8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
November 27 & 28	Closed
November 29	8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
November 30	Closed

The East Campus Clinic will be closed.

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