

Theater

Great effects give 'wrinkle' to production

BY JASON HARDY
Assignment Reporter

Most students associate throbbing brains, flying horses and time travel with the side effects of final exams.

This weekend, however, they can experience the same phenomenon without studying a bit.

The Lincoln Community Playhouse Children's Theatre will defy dimensions tonight with its production of Madeleine L'Engle's "A Wrinkle In Time."

"It's gonna be more of an event than a show."

The story was adapted for the stage by Omaha resident Ron Zank and has never before been performed.

With tonight's performance, Lenette Nelson Schwinn, director of the production, will be fulfilling a five-year dream.

"I wanted to do this about five or six years ago, but I was sort of held up by finances," Schwinn said.

She said she was both excited and nervous about putting on a show she's been thinking about for half a decade.

"I'm anxious to make sure it will happen the way I want it to happen," Schwinn said.

The play's story follows three children as they travel through time in search for their father. Along the way they encounter numerous mystical characters and forces of immense evil. No Nintendo needed for these kids.

Scott Raymond, a senior at Lincoln Northeast, plays Calvin O'Keefe in the show. He said the crazy plot line meant crazy sets.

"We've got throbbing brains, motion lights and even a flying horse," Raymond said. "You've gotta go for that."

Schwinn said the stage adaptation closely mirrored the book, partly because of the extravagant special effects.

"Obviously there are some limitations when you do something on stage," Schwinn said. "But I do think the script follows the book really well."

Raymond said the special effects combined with the talent of the actors was sure to offer a grand event that would appeal to people of all ages.

"It's gonna be fun. I'm a sucker for big sets and lighting," Raymond said. "It's gonna be more of an event than a show."

He said he hopes people will get the same thing out of the show that he got out of it.

"You have your normal day at school and then you go to the Playhouse and get lost in it," Raymond said.

Admission to "A Wrinkle In Time" is \$13 for adults and \$9 for youth and students. Performances are being held tonight through Thursday, Feb. 26 to March 7 and March 10 to March 8. Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows start at 7 p.m. Additional shows are held on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Lincoln Community Playhouse Children's Theatre is located at 2500 S. 56th St.

CORRECTION

The day for Tom Garver's lecture "Steam Locomotives and the Good Life: The Photographs of O. Winston Link" was listed incorrectly at the beginning of an A&E story in Wednesday's newspaper. The lecture is Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Gallery Auditorium.



JUNIOR KIRK LINDHOLM (left) and freshman Sarah Eurek are reflected in a mirror while learning to dance. About 75 people showed up for the UNL Dance Club's first session at Mabel Lee Hall Tuesday.

JAY CALDERON/DN

In the groove

BY LIZA HOLTMEIER
Staff Reporter

These days, everybody's doin' it. Al Pacino did it in "Scent of a Woman." Schwarzenegger did it in "True Lies."

Whether it's the tango or the swing, everybody's dancin'.

In the past few years, America has witnessed a resurgence in the popularity of social dance. Across the United States, dance and swing clubs are throwing open their doors. Bands like the Squirrel Nut Zippers and the Royal Crown Revue are reviving '40s music with a '90s edge.

Lincoln dance instructor Shelley Brackhan hopes some of the craze

Dance club helps members get into the swing of things

will spill over onto the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

Brackhan has started a social dance club which meets on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 9 to 10 in Mabel Lee Hall Room 304.

"This is not an unusual club by any means," Brackhan said. "Fifty to 70 percent of colleges have ballroom dance clubs."

The club held its first class on Tuesday night. More than 70 students attended to learn the basics of the tango and the swing.

"I thought it was fun," said Kim Hannagan, a junior English major. "I've always watched ballroom dancing and ice dancing on TV. This is one way to learn more about it."

"It was perfect," added Sergey Azamlyuk, a visiting scholar. "I think (Brackhan) is the best instructor."

Brackhan started the class by introducing herself and outlining her goals for the club.

She said she planned to offer the class throughout the semester and sponsor monthly social dances where club members could show off their progress.

If there is enough interest, Brackhan said, she would consider starting a performance team. She plans to visit Brigham Young University in Utah over the summer to see how they run their programs. BYU currently has the number one ballroom dance team in the nation.

After a quick introduction, Brackhan taught the women's and then the men's part of the swing. Because women outnumbered men, each man had two dance partners.

After the couples had danced the swing to both country- and jazz-style music, Brackhan began with a simplified version of the tango. She began with a straight across the floor. Then, she added a variation, emphasizing the cat-like style of the dance. Finally, she let the couples move in a circle around the floor so the men could practice leading their partners.

The club is the culmination of five years of dreaming for Brackhan, a graduate of the UNL dance program. Commitments at Brackhan's own studio, the Brackhan Dance Directive, kept her from starting the club.

This year, Brackhan said, she finally had the time to donate her energy to the UNL campus.

Brackhan said her teaching for the club would be different from her studio teaching.

"I plan to go at a faster pace with the university because you don't know how long the students will be around," Brackhan said.

Some of the dances to be included in the class are:

- The fox trot: This is an American dance that originated in 1913 with a vaudevillian named Henry Fox. Fox would bring out a number of chorus girls during his show and trot them around the stage.

- The American swing: This dance originated in the 1920s because of the popularity of jazz and swing music.

- The rumba: This Cuban dance also originated in the '20s and emphasizes the Cuban movement (steps are small and flat with no movement above the waist).

- The mambo: This dance borrows heavily from the Cuban bolero.

- The tango: This dance is considered to be the most sensual and graceful of Latin dances.

- The salsa: This dance is described as the reverse mambo with "soul."

The first class is free for everyone. After that, members must pay a fee of \$10 a month for students and \$20 a month for non-students. There will be an additional fee for those who want to participate in the monthly social dances.

Brackhan plans to donate a portion in return for the club's use of Mabel Lee Hall.

"The dance program has to fight every single semester to keep going," Brackhan said. "I hope we can give something back to them."

She also hopes the club will serve as a compliment to the dance curriculum.

"I hope I'm fulfilling a need that is out there on campus."

