

Seinfeld to appear in Omaha

From Staff Reports

"Seinfeld" fans used to feel lucky to see Jerry Seinfeld once a week, on television.

But this weekend, they can see him four times, live.

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld takes the stage this Friday and Saturday in Omaha with two shows each night, the first at 7 p.m. and the second at 10

p.m. Seinfeld, whose Emmy-award winning series "Seinfeld" ended its run last spring, has gone back to his stand-up comedy roots and is touring the United States.

Seinfeld will appear this weekend at the Orpheum theater, 409 S. 16th St. in Omaha, both Friday and Saturday nights. Tickets are still available for both shows and are \$60.50.

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Camp encourages experimentation

BY BARB CHURCHILL
Staff Reporter

Children and jazz definitely mix.

The 1998 Nebraska Jazz Camp, sponsored by the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra, should help more high school age individuals find that out, said Jason Keagy, assistant director of Arts Incorporated and occasional trombonist for the Nebraska Jazz Orchestra.

Arts Incorporated is an umbrella group which contains the NJO, the Lincoln Municipal Band, the Nebraska Brass and the Lincoln Civic Orchestra, among others.

Keagy enjoys working with these groups because it's another way to educate the community and promote live music, he said.

"It gives me an opportunity to see another side of music. For years, I've played music, and I enjoy helping to provide more opportunities for musicians and listeners," Keagy said.

This year's Nebraska Jazz Camp provides different performing opportunities for the nascent jazz musician, including two full jazz big bands, masterclasses with various instructors on subjects such as jazz theory and jazz improvisation, faculty performances in various locations and the opportunity to play in a jazz combo. Every one of the 40 students at this year's camp will play in a small group, Keagy said.

Keagy, who was involved in every aspect of preparations for this year's camp, appreciates working at Arts Incorporated because of their emphasis on providing music and helping train musicians.

"It's a win-win situation. It helps develop their playing skills and also develops a bigger audience for jazz music in our community," Keagy said.

The emphasis on live music is very important, said Nebraska Jazz Camp

percussion instructor Joey Gulizia.

"I think (providing this camp) is one of the ways we are able to keep jazz alive, because we don't hear enough jazz on the radio and we don't see enough of it on TV. So, working with students who are young is a great way of preserving jazz," Gulizia said. "One of the neat things about doing a camp like this is to keep (jazz) growing and growing and spreading."

Jazz is not all one style of music, and is not just about improvisation, said trombone instructor Todd Thatcher.

"(This camp) is a good opportunity to give (the students) exposure to several different styles of jazz that they wouldn't get in their high school or junior high programs," Thatcher said. "It gives them a varied influence to start exploring and decide whether they like (jazz) or not."

Keagy, a 1997 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in music education, said students needed to have a safe place in which to conceive of new concepts. The Nebraska Jazz Camp was designed to give the young and faint-of-heart a place to improve musically, he said.

"Anytime you're in a new environment with students you don't know, and with faculty you don't know, it can be intimidating. But once (the students) are actually in the environment, once they get to know their peers and the faculty better, they can start to experiment a bit," Keagy said.

Trumpet instructor Brian Grasmick believes the improvisation classes and the emphasis on small group performance is beneficial to students, he said.

"When we were their age, there was nothing like this to help us learn the craft, and many of us had to wait a lot later in life to learn this," Grasmick said. "So, (the jazz camp is) a chance for (the students) to rub shoulders with guys that are professionals. They don't get

that much in their environment, so it's a super thing for them."

Students Seth Schoen, a saxophonist, and John Albin, a percussionist, agreed with Keagy's assessment.

"I'm really impressed with the faculty and their knowledge of not only jazz, but they also know how to teach it," Schoen said.

While Schoen's emphasis was on the worthiness of the faculty and their teaching experience, Albin's was on the performance opportunities provided.

"I like the combos. At school, I play in the big band, and I enjoy the opportunity to play in a smaller group," Albin said.

This was exactly what Arts Incorporated and the NJO had in mind, Keagy said.

"(This camp) is an opportunity for high school age students and up to get a chance to perform," he said. "There are more opportunities to perform here than at most of their various high schools and junior high schools." The NJO, in conjunction with the 1998 Nebraska Jazz Camp, has several free concerts that are open to the public, Keagy said. Thursday, a six-piece sextet from the Nebraska Jazz Camp faculty will perform in front of the Nebraska Union during the University Program Council's Grassy Grooves series. In addition, the NJO will perform for the jazz camp students in an open concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Rodgers Fine Arts Theatre, located on the campus of Nebraska Wesleyan University on the corner of 50th and Huntington streets.

The final concert of the Nebraska Jazz Camp, featuring both jazz big bands and every student combo, will be held Friday afternoon at 4 in the Rodgers Fine Arts Theatre. Admission to all events is free.

James Valentine contributed to this story.

'Aladdin' to rely on crowd participation

ALADDIN from page 9

the original story.

"We didn't want to perpetuate the 'helpless princess' stereotype," Libman said.

And unlike the Disney version, there won't be a monkey or an animated flying carpet. Children should still be drawn to the play because of the flashy costumes and the invitation to fully participate, Libman said.

"Children will be more likely to participate in this because no single child will be singled out," Libman said.

Libman said the biggest concern was not children being shy, but when the children in the play start to get into the roles that they're playing.

"It's harder to get them calmed down when you need them to," Libman said.

Though the play centers on and

encourages children to participate, Libman said "Aladdin" was a production that could be enjoyed at any age.

"Good theater is good theater," Libman said. "Adults will enjoy the show just as well as children."

Tickets are \$3 for the in-the-round performance. The play runs Friday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.



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