

Comic 'Christmas Carol' lacks an emotional core

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Kristopher Kling, who played Bob Cratchit, turned this quiet family man into a detached, reserved anomaly. While Cratchit's wife and her children fawned over each other, Kling remained cool and aloof. His emotions following the death of Tiny Tim lacked the necessary dignified, yet overwhelming sense of sorrow.

Scrooge's journey to miserdom suffered from the scenes between the Young Scrooge, played by Dan Rassmussen, and his sweetheart Belle, played by Heather Harrison.

Harrison's character was full of warmth and passion, but Rassmussen's Scrooge failed to reciprocate this affection. Rassmussen appeared detached from the beginning. Consequently, the audience never had the chance to see Scrooge progress from an innocent, young man in love to the greedy old scoundrel he became.

Various casting decisions also made this production different from the last. Becky Key was cast in the traditionally male role of the Ghost of Christmas Present. Usually portrayed as a larger-than-life Father Christmas-type, the Ghost of Christmas Present presents a challenge for a female.

Key's grand, meaty laughter helped to communicate this character's overwhelming Christmas spirit, however she could have developed it further.

If Key had emphasized a more motherly nature, the overpowering life of this character could have been stronger. The Ghost as nurturer would have brought a new dimension to



MATT MILLER/DN

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT (Becky Key) casts her magic dust on humanity in the hopes of instilling the Christmas spirit. Key's flamboyant portrayal of the Ghost of Christmas Present departed from the traditionally male-dominated role.

the character's often rote portrayal.

However, this year's production of "A Christmas Carol" benefited from a quicker pace and a lighter tone in other aspects. The Hallmark Card-like sets by Larry Kaushansky seemed more in sync with this production, and the usually drawn-out crowd scenes were kept brief and few.

Unfortunately, the faster tempo and additional comedy took away some of the time needed to explore the characters. And since Dickens' characters are the crux of this story, some of his emotion failed to come through as well.

group rates are available.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Steve Grupe at (402) 346-4398.

Gallery asks for art from cancer survivors

As an outlet for personal expression and medium of shared experiences, the art world owes much of its history to pain and perseverance.

The story is no different for cancer survivors, whose life-threatening bouts with the disease have inspired the annual Gallery of Hope Art Exhibit.

Sponsored by the Olson Center for Women's Health and the University of Nebraska Eppley Cancer Center, the exhibit is searching for artwork created by cancer survivors.

The work will be placed on display in the University of Nebraska Medical Center/Nebraska Health System Outpatient Care Center East Atrium on Feb. 18 and 19.

The annual Gallery of Hope exhibit began three years ago to increase awareness of breast cancer and kick off Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The exhibit now asks for art from all survivors of cancer, recognizing personal expression as an integral part of the healing process.

For more information or to submit work, call (402) 559-6345.

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Dropped Notes

Professor's photos of Asia focus of center's exhibit

Physics Professor Kam-Ching Leung knows that education doesn't stop in the classroom or in one particular department.

The Lentz Center for Asian Culture, 14th and U streets, is presenting a double exhibit of about 50 pieces of historic Chinese art from the personal collection of Leung, University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of physics and astronomy.

The exhibit consists of photographs of Asia taken by Leung, as well as ceramic pieces that represent all of the major historical periods of China's past, the oldest dating back 6,000 years.

The exhibit opens Dec. 19 and runs through April.

The Lentz Center is located in Morrill Hall, room 329. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

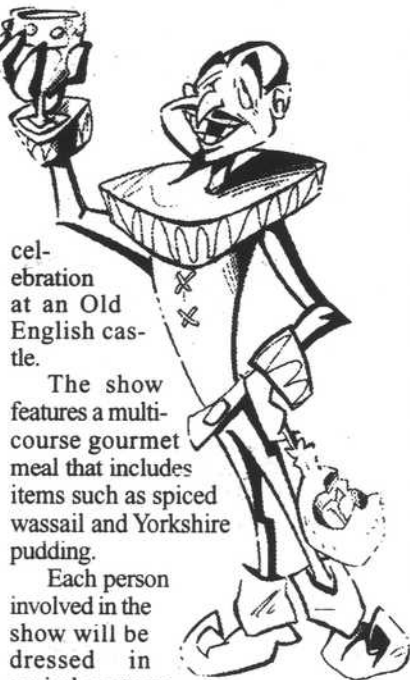
There is no admission charge, but a \$2 donation is encouraged for Morrill Hall visitors over age 2.

For more information, call the Lentz Center at (402) 472-5841.

Theater takes guests back to Renaissance era

It's a feast straight out of Christmas past.

The Madrigal Christmas Feaste, a unique presentation of dinner theater, takes guests back in time for a holiday



MATT HANEY/DN

celebration at an Old English castle.

The show features a multi-course gourmet meal that includes items such as spiced wassail and Yorkshire pudding.

Each person involved in the show will be dressed in period costume to make the night a full Renaissance experience. Professional singers and actors will provide entertainment throughout the meal.

The Madrigal Christmas Feaste takes place at the Marriott Hotel Ballroom, 10220 Regency Circle in Omaha and runs from Dec. 17 to Dec. 20.

Cocktails and pre-performance entertainment starts at 6 p.m. and the feast begins at 7 p.m.

An additional matinee at 1:30 p.m. is available on Dec. 20, with pre-entertainment beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$36 per person and

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Grasshopper Takeover comes home

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positive feelings toward the sentiment of the comparison, but he did add that 311 lead singer Nick Hexum, as well as the rest of 311, has been nothing but helpful to his band since it made the move.

"Those guys have been, more than anything else, extremely good friends," he said.

But contrary to the things 311 has done, Grubb said he uses his Omaha heritage to his, and the band's, advantage.

"Out here it is a novelty," he said. "It creates a vibe and a story that goes with the band, and it's important for us to stay true to that. When you get on stage and you tell people that you are from Omaha, they want to know what kind of a band comes from Nebraska. Then we rock, and they are surprised,

and it's cool."

He said although living in Los Angeles hasn't changed the band's style of doing things, it has changed the results.

"If anything, California has made us good," he said. "It has inspired us to write, it has made us tough, and it has made us a great live act!"

Grasshopper Takeover takes the stage Dec. 23 at the Ranch Bowl, 1600 S. 72nd St. in Omaha. The all-ages show begins at 8 p.m. For more information, call the Ranch Bowl at (402) 393-0900.

The Dec. 25 show takes place at the 18th Amendment, 4727 S. 96th St. in Omaha, and is 21 and over. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. with openers from Omaha's Clever and Lincoln natives Happy Dog. For more information, call the 18th Amendment at (402) 339-7170.

Pulliam

Pulliam Journalism Fellowships

Graduating college seniors are invited to apply for the 26th annual Pulliam Journalism Fellowships. We will grant 10-week summer internships to 20 journalism or liberal arts majors in the August 1998-June 1999 graduating classes.

Previous internship or part-time experience at a newspaper is desired. Winners will receive a \$5,250 stipend and will work at either *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis News* or *The Arizona Republic*.

Early-admissions application postmark deadline is Nov. 15, 1998. By Dec. 15, 1998, up to five early-admissions winners will be notified. All other entries must be postmarked by March 1, 1999.

To request an application packet, write: Russell B. Pulliam
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