

Lazer Vaudeville sheds light on traditional entertainment

By DANELL MCCOY
Staff writer

The performers want people to know that what they do is different: They don't put on just a laser light show.

To make that clear, the cast of Lazer Vaudeville spells laser with a "z."

"We use the 'z' for a showbiz effect," said Cindy Marvell, a performer with the troupe. "It gives the name a little pizzazz."

A visual assault of light, action and eye tricks opens Friday at the Lied Center, 301 N. 12th St. It's a mix of old and new, complete with the antics of old vaudeville mixed with high-tech lasers

and black lights.

The show is a modern combination of classic acrobatics, juggling and magic tricks, along with plenty of spontaneous humor. Lazer Vaudeville also uses rope spinning and the nearly lost art of hoop rolling.

Classic juggling with balls, clubs and rings round out the show but a few surprises are always thrown in.

"We have professional jugglers who come and watch us because we have so many different juggling techniques," Marvell said. "Some of them are technicians that most people have not had the chance to experience."

Lazer Vaudeville was founded in 1987 by Carter Brown. Brown had

worked as a circus juggler, but after six years decided he wanted something new.

Brown mixed his interest in laser programming and technology with his act, basically vaudevillian, and created the show.

"We use the lights as set pieces," Marvell said. "The black lights can bring certain things into focus and give the audience a better look at what is going on onstage."

It also keeps the audience from seeing what is happening onstage technically. While the black lights are on, troupe members may be moving around, helping with the next trick or getting things in place for future acts.

With the aid of the black lights, Marvell said, the audience is able to focus on the current act instead of what is going on in the background.

The show plays not only with the eyes of the audience, but also with their ears. Members use hand drums or other devices to add a rhythmic backdrop to the performance.

The troupe also makes audiences active members of the show. And don't think it's just for kids. Adults may be asked to try to escape from a strait jacket or hold spinning plates.

"We don't just pick on the kids," Marvell said. "We have things for the adults to do, too. We try to take advantage of whatever unexpected moment

Lied Center The Facts

What: Lazer Vaudeville
Where: Lied Center for Performing Arts
When: Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Cost: \$9 for general admission, \$4 for students
The Skinny: New art blends classic entertainment with modern technology.

arrives." The troupe is holding a free juggling workshop at the Lied on Friday at noon open to the public.



THE JUGGLING CLOWN is a favorite entertainer of the Lazer Vaudeville troupe. The show combines age-old circus tricks with new-age light effects.

Dropped Notes The Facts

What: Peter Schickele and the Lark Quartet
Where: Kimball Recital Hall
When: Tonight at 8
Cost: \$22, \$18
The Skinny: Nationally renowned composer makes Lincoln appearance

Composer Schickele to appear in concert at UNI's Kimball Hall

Famed composer Peter Schickele will appear tonight at Kimball Recital Hall. Schickele is known as the man responsible for discovering the lost works of the mythical genius P.D.Q. Bach, a long-lost son of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Schickele's work under this alias has been acknowledged as some of the greatest satire of the 20th century. He has appeared with such symphonies as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic and the London Symphony Orchestra.

He is appearing tonight with the Lark Quartet, composed of Diane Pascal, violin; Jennifer Orchard, violin; Danielle Farina, viola; and Astrid Schween, cello.

The quartet, founded in 1985, has earned several accolades, including a gold medal at the 1991 Shostakovich International String Competition.

It tours internationally and is in residence at Ohio University.

The centerpiece of tonight's concert will be Schickele's "String Quartet No. 2 'In Memoriam,'" which was written for the Lark Quartet in 1988 as a memorial piece for Schickele's brother-in-law.

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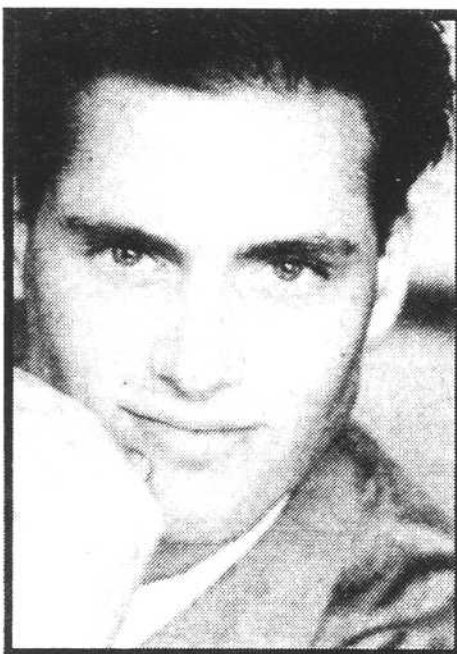
DATE & TIME: Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Pius X High School Auditorium
6000 A Street, Lincoln

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