

'Falsettos' focuses on lives of homosexual men in the '70s

MUSICAL from page 9

Act I opens with the character singing a number called "Tight-Knit Family."

"Falsettos" director Michal Simpson said the piece expresses the complexities that come when a father enters his first gay relationship. Marvin and his wife-who-turns ex-wife, Trina, have a son named Jason.

The program's full orchestra kicks in with Marvin singing about the inevitable changes in his family life.

"There's a little underlying tension in the scene," Simpson said. "Marvin is trying to manipulate his world to make everything work out between his new lover and his family. He believes that he is right, and that the others will find out he is right."

The character inevitably breaks the marriage up, and he starts seeing a man named Whizzer.

To the credit of the story, "Falsettos" sounds as if it maintains its complexity after Marvin comes out of the closet. The character keeps things interesting, Simpson said, by "wanting to drive his own world."

The character seems torn between keeping his Jewish family together and having a gay lover.

For instance, Marvin has a new lover, but becomes jealous when Trina begins dating his psychiatrist, Dr. Mendel.

Simpson said the character's hard time with his wife's newfound love is indicative of Marvin.

"He's a little bit spoiled," he said. "A little bit selfish. He's a little narrow, and resists the curves that are thrown his way."

Foster said the character entertains because "he's well-meaning, but yet flaky and difficult."

"It's all about Marvin getting all the love in the world," Foster said. "He wants to have his cake and eat it, too." And then in Act II, Whizzer gets sick.

The acronym, AIDS, is never used in the production, but Foster said it isn't hard to predict what the character has acquired.

"These days a person can't walk two feet without seeing something about AIDS," he said. "So everyone knows exactly what he has."

Marvin, meanwhile, gradually accepts his ex-wife's relationship with Dr. Mendel that has evolved into a marriage.

The doctor by the way, has also counseled Jason. Interwoven is this adult web, and the young character gets caught in it.

Jason's companionship with his father's former lover eventually brings Marvin and Whizzer back together.

Meanwhile, Whizzer's condition worsens.

Foster said Act II makes an important point about the effects of AIDS.

"I think it's important to get the message out about the disease, and that it can affect anyone," he said.

Theatre at the J is located in the Jewish Community Center, 333 S. 132nd St. in Omaha. The musical will run on a Thursday, Saturday and Sunday schedule each weekend throughout the month of February. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, and \$10 for students and senior citizens.

Simpson said the musical has concerns everyone can relate to.

"It's just not a play about AIDS," he said. "It's about acceptance, understanding and treating people the way you expect to be treated."

Oprah plans to quit

■ The daytime talk show star is tiring of sleaze and oversaturation.

LONDON (AP) — Oprah Winfrey is fed up with the sleaze on daytime television especially rival Jerry Springer's show and is ready to bail out of her long-running show.

"I am all talked out," Winfrey told The Sunday Times. "My contract has two years left, then I am getting out of such shows because I feel they are going to burn themselves out."

Winfrey has been a ratings success since launching "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in September 1986. Despite its 32 Daytime Emmys, it recently has been challenged in the ratings by "The Jerry Springer Show."

While in London to promote her new film, "Beloved," she told the newspaper it was depressing to return to television after her stint on the movie set.

"Coming off that wonderful film to be just interviewing more dysfunctional people was a letdown," she said. Another reason for her disgust, she said, is Springer, calling his show a "vulgarity circus."

"Unless you are going to kill people on the air, and not just hit them on the head with chairs, and unless you are going to have sexual intercourse and not just, as I saw the other day, a guy pulling down his pants and pulling out his penis then there comes a point when you have oversaturated yourself," Winfrey was quoted as telling the Times.

Winfrey was unavailable for comment today because she is taping her show in the Bahamas this week, said Jerilyn Schultz, a publicist in Chicago.

Schultz said she could not comment beyond a statement issued Monday, which said no announcements were planned on whether Winfrey would continue the show after the end of her current contract.

Dropped Notes

Judaicathon offers night filled with culture, heritage

In a celebration of culture and heritage, Omaha's Jewish Community Center presents the Judaicathon, an evening of Jewish talent, food and music.

Held this Sunday, the Judaicathon is divided into periods of topical discussion and interludes, which include music by Cantor Emil Berkovitz and the Inspirations. From start to finish, the evening should run from 7 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Two University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors serve as featured presenters for the occasion, English

Associate Professor Gerald Shapiro and Associate Professor of political science Jeff Spinner-Halev.

Comprising 11 mini-courses that deal with Jewish culture and politics as "Israel in the New Middle East" led by Spinner-Halev; "Growing up Jewish in America - The Making of a Jewish Writer" led by Shapiro and "The Jews of Hollywood and the Arts" with Murray Frost.

The cost for the evening is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors.

For more information call Gloriann Levy at (402) 334-6403.

A&E Briefs

'Night Court' star divorcing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Harry Anderson's marriage lost that magic.

Leslie Pollack Anderson, a magician and actress, filed for divorce Tuesday from Anderson, the sleight-of-hand artist and "Night Court" star.

Pollack Anderson cited irreconcilable differences. The couple have been married 11 years and have a 12-year-old son.

Garland songs to be released

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Judy Garland fans will soon be listening to a treasure trove of duets recently discovered in a New Jersey basement.

"The staggering collection of over 100 audio and video tapes were carefully moved to the West Coast and gradually digitally remastered," Sid Luft, her former husband and manager, said Wednesday.

The songs will be released on a \$24.98 two-CD set called "Judy Duets."


For almost three decades, master tapes of Garland's TV show duets with Barbra Streisand, Ethel Merman, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, Lena Horne and others were stored in the crawl space of a home owned by a onetime Luft business associate.

Garland died in 1969.

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220 Furniture For Sale
Drafting table for sale, 1 year old. Asking \$150 OBO, contact Troy at 438-9981.

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290 Vehicles For Sale
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Applications are available starting February 12th at 200 Nebraska Union, 300 Nebraska East Union, Culture Center and Women's Center/ Applications are due February 26th.

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Attention Students
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