

Lied sports expanded lineup

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director, is ready to party.

"We're kind of like pulling out all the stops. We just want to celebrate, so we tried to bring in a full spectrum of the performing arts," Bethea said. "We want to, once again, affirm what the Lied Center stands for but celebrates at the same time, and we're doing that."

"It's a big season."

The word "big" is often a relative term, but a quick glance at the Lied's schedule can assure anyone that Bethea means what he says. All the way down the list big names keep popping up: singer Harry Belafonte, an off-Broadway production of "Cats," singer

Judy Collins, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, dancer Bill T. Jones and last, but not least, Gregory Hines.

While the focus of this season is definitely on the graceful aging of the Lied Center, one part of this year's lineup is, in a sense, just now being born — the Nebraska Artist Series.

"When we thought about planning for the 10th anniversary season, we wanted to develop a commitment to performing artists that have some connection to this state and have been successful and are continuing to be successful," Bethea said.

The Nebraska Artist Series is not only making its debut this season, it pro-

vides the opening act, which features comedian and Omaha native Pat Hazell. His show, "The Wonder Bread Years," is a humorous account of Hazell's childhood growing up in Nebraska.

Aside from kicking off a new series, this season also continues to emphasize two of the Lied Center's other successful series — the Discovery Series, dedicated to cutting edge original ideas and performers, and the Family Series, which offers cheaper tickets to family-oriented events.

One highlight from this year's Discovery Series is sure to be "Orfeo," which combines the opera with some of the most innovative multimedia effects ever used on stage. Performers and music are woven seamlessly into three-dimensional holographic images that are projected onto the stage.

One of the not-to-be-missed family events is the "Fred Garbo Inflatable Theater Company," a show that combines ballet-like movement with balloons and other inflatable objects.

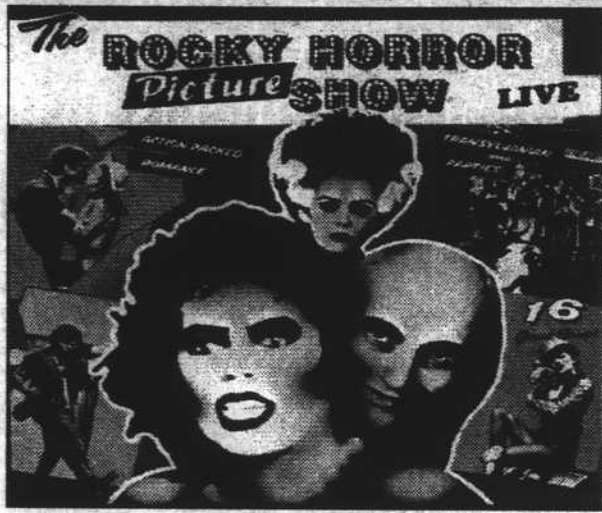
With a commitment to finding acts to fit specific categories such as the Discovery Series and the Family Series, it's easy to assume that, at times, quality suffers. Bethea, however, is quick to claim the opposite.

"My programming philosophy is: Anything we put on stage must meet our standards of high artistic quality, diversity and be generally representative of all the forms of performing arts," Bethea said. "It's not like we're tacking these shows on. We're blending them into our programming philosophy."

As if booking almost 10 more acts wasn't thanks enough for Lincoln's continued patronage over the past 10 years, the Lied Center is throwing the town a party, too.

On Sept. 24, the Lied will hold "Jubilied," an outdoor birthday party in the Lied Plaza with free food, free music by the Cajun band BeauSoleil and free dancing under free stars.

Ah, yes, it's the icing on the cake.



Show begins at Midnight Saturday, August 21st.

\$4.00 All Ages

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JOYO Theatre

6102 Haveback Avenue

Lied Center 1999

| Month | Date | Time | Performer |
|-----------|----------|---|--|
| September | 8-9 | 8p.m. | Pat Hazell, comedian |
| | 10 | 7&9p.m. | Pat Hazell, comedian |
| | 12 | 2&6p.m. | Pat Hazell, comedian |
| | 22 | 8p.m. | Harry Belafonte |
| | 24 | 7p.m. | BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet |
| October | 1 | 8p.m. | Bobby Watson and Horizon with Victor Lewis |
| | 3 | 7p.m. | Moscow State Radio Symphony Orch. & Chorus |
| | 5 | 8p.m. | Perلمان/Nikkänen/Balley Piano Trio |
| | 6 | 8p.m. | Don Cossacks of Rostov |
| | 8 | 8p.m. | Perلمان/Nikkänen/Balley Piano Trio |
| | 12 | 8p.m. | Burhan Ocal & Seamus Blake Quartet |
| | 18 | 8p.m. | National Symphony Orchestra |
| | 20 | 8p.m. | Irakere |
| | 22 | 8p.m. | Susan Marshall & Co.: "The Descent Beckons" |
| | 26 | 8p.m. | "Cats" |
| 27 | 2&6p.m. | "Cats" | |
| 28 | 8p.m. | "Cats" | |
| 29 | 8p.m. | "Cats" | |
| November | 2-4 | 7p.m. | Michael Cooper |
| | 5 | 8p.m. | Club 47: Rush, Ian, Taylor & Gilbert |
| | 12 | 8p.m. | The Watts Prophets: "Talk Up/Not Down" |
| | 14 | 7p.m. | Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Naoko Tanaka, violin |
| | 19 | 8p.m. | The Edlos |
| December | 2-3 | 7p.m. | Big Apple Circus "On Stage" |
| | 4 | 2&7p.m. | Big Apple Circus "On Stage" |
| | 5 | 2&6p.m. | Big Apple Circus "On Stage" |
| | 12 | 7p.m. | "A Judy Collins Christmas" |
| January | 21-22 | 8p.m. | Junebug Production, Roadside Theater, Pregones Theater |
| | 25 | 8p.m. | Yo-Yo Ma, Cello & Kathryn Stott, piano |
| | 28-29 | 8p.m. | "Orfeo": Michel Lemieux Victor Pilon Creation |
| | February | 2 | 8p.m. |
| 8 | | 8p.m. | Dominic Gaudious, guitar |
| 11 | | 8p.m. | Bill T. Jones |
| 13 | | 7p.m. | Joshua Bell, violin |
| 16-17 | | 8p.m. | Rinde Eckert: "Romeo Sierra Tango" |
| 22 | | 8p.m. | Buto-Sha Tenkei |
| 25 | | 8p.m. | "Voices of Light" |
| 27 | | 7p.m. | The Carnegie Hall Jazz Band |
| 29 | | 8p.m. | Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo |
| March | 6 | 8p.m. | Aquila Theater Company: "The Illiad" |
| | 7 | 8p.m. | Aquila Theater Company: "King Lear" |
| | 9 | 8p.m. | NYC Opera Nat'l. Co.: "Barber of Seville" |
| | 11 | 8p.m. | Poncho Sanchez/ Latin Jazz Band |
| | 14-15 | 7p.m. | Fred Garbo Inflatable Theater Co. |
| | 17 | 8p.m. | "Show Boat" |
| | 18 | 2&8p.m. | "Show Boat" |
| | 19 | 2&7p.m. | "Show Boat" |
| 21 | 8p.m. | Les Ballets jazz de Montréal | |
| 23 | 8p.m. | Ballet d'Afrique Noire: "The Mandinka Epic" | |
| 27 | 8p.m. | Beaux Arts Trio | |
| April | 6-8 | 8p.m. | "Fiddler on the Roof" |
| | 9 | 2p.m. | "Fiddler on the Roof" |
| | 11 | 8p.m. | Lang Lang, piano |
| | 29 | 8p.m. | Gregory Hines |

MATT HANEY/DN

Performer prepares for magic at welcome

BY JASON HARDY
Senior staff writer

Jerry Seinfeld once said he hated magicians because they take your quarter, make it disappear and leave you there, broke and feeling stupid.

Luckily for Gayle Becwar, self-proclaimed magician, humorist and mind reader, feeling stupid is just part of the act.

"It's kind of a high energy magic act that's sort of like Barney Fife, Clark Griswold or Tim Allen with magic," said Becwar. "In that regard, I kind of make fun of magic."

This Sunday, Becwar will bring his zany comedy and magic routine to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as the headlining act for this year's Big Red Welcome.

Becwar is no stranger to UNL. In 1984, he graduated with a degree in broadcasting and speech. And though the Big Red Welcome has previously been headlined by better-known musical acts who draw thousands of students, Becwar feels his brand of slapstick, magical humor will be right at home.

Becwar's off-kilter comedic approach is blatantly apparent at first sight of his attire — the typically classy top hat, tux and wand have been replaced by plain clothes, a shower cap and a paper towel roll.

"It's kind of stupid humor, like Steve Martin or Jim Carrey, guys who can

take a joke themselves," Becwar said. "I'm just taking that philosophy and adding magic."

Aside from Becwar's onstage antics, this year's Big Red Welcome also offers a wide array of offstage information and activities. The festivities start at 6 p.m. in front of the Union, with a free picnic followed by performances by the UNL Yell Squad, Herbie Husker and Lil' Red.

Before Becwar begins his act at 8:30 p.m., both the Scarlet and Cream Singers and the Scarlet dancers will perform. As always there will be almost 250 booths full of free stuff, information for campus groups and departments and other things every UNL student should know.

Becwar said the carnival-esque style of the Big Red Welcome is perfect for his shtick.

"My act is kind of like being a street performer. You start off usually with maybe 10 or 12 people around you, and hopefully you'll have around 300 by the end," Becwar said. "Except for this one, I won't have to pass the hat."

Becwar said his performance relies heavily on crowd participation and spontaneity, two things that can backfire if an audience feels its being made fun of. For that reason, Becwar always makes it clear he is not afraid to laugh at himself.

"I tell people 'I don't want to make fun of you, I want to have fun with you.' I make it kind of like a big party on stage."

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