Student designers rise to ‘Top Girls’ challenge

By KEVIN COFFEY

The Lied Center Studio Theater will be traveling through time this and next weekend. “Top Girls,” the most recent play at the Lied Center, starts with a woman’s dream where she meets historical women.

In her dream, other women from the past come out from paintings and have dinner with her. She is able to share all of the successes of these historical women and put her own life in perspective.

The show opened on Thursday and will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday and also will play Dec. 11 through 13. All shows are at 7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theater.

The play includes characters from many different time periods, including the 1200s, the 1500s, the late 1800s and the present.

“Top Girls” also has the theme of a kaleidoscope, said Katie Beacom, the play’s costume designer.

The lights and colors on the sets are different colors from a kaleidoscope. Even different actresses that play different characters always wear the same color, signifying the kaleidoscope jewels that move but always show the same color, Beacom said.

“It’s a really empowering show about women that have succeeded and broken out of the woman stereotype,” Beacom said. “They are not going to get a traditional play.”

“It is very intellectual,” said Homero Vela, the play’s set designer.

Creighton has never done a play like this. Beacom and Vela said. The characters from “Top Girls” are all women. In addition, the play also is being entirely designed by students.

Vela said that at most schools, undergraduate students do not get to do set design. They usually have graduate students do all of the designing.

Beacom said, “It’s my first time designing and it’s very...fulfilling,” Vela said, finishing her sentence.

The play was written by Caryl Churchill and is directed by guest-director Tammy Meneghini.

Meneghini is an actress and acting instructor from New York. She works with performers at University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Nebraska at Lincoln and the Omaha Community Playhouse.

Ticket prices are $10 for general admission, $8 for Creighton University faculty and staff and seniors and $5 for students. For ticket reservations call 280-1448.

Strings sound the season

From left: Kelly Riedmann, Jessica Sapp and Josh Howard practice for the Wind Ensemble and University Orchestra concert on Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the main stage of the Lied Center. Admission to the concert is free. The annual Christmas concert will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m. In St. John’s.

Artist’s message of