Continued from page 1.

and music, combining Latin American beat, rhythm and blues, rock, soul and country music.

To say the least, the musical is unconventional in many ways, and "Hair," for which MacDermot also wrote the score, is tame by comparison.

The audience must keep up with the cast members, who seem to pop out of the woodwork and use every space in the theater available.

Director Allan Klem said, "The musical is done in the spirit of fun, and that's the reason we've staged it like this. This staging obviously breaks down a lot of theater conventions."

Another unique characteristic of "Two Gentlemen" is the amount of music used "There is twice as much music in this musical than most others," said Klem. "It's almost an opera."

Kelly Hitch as Julia beautifully plays a perplexed young lady, alarmed by life and love. In the songs "What a Nice Idea," and "Don't Have the Baby," she displays a very pretty voice and conveys a wide range of emotions.

Jeff Sauvageau as Valentine shows soaring vocals, especially in the song "Love's Revenge," which is done in a '50s style.

William Martin as Proteus portrays the pull between friend and betrothed very well.

Only in this musical could Kevin McCarthy, playing a cowboy in Verona, quoting Shakespeare and singing rock music, not seem out of place. He is hilarious as he sings in a country twang, "I leaned down to kiss you and your pearls got in my mouth," while Proteus and Julia are passionately engaged nearby.

"Two Gentlemen" has more plot twists than any soap opera could muster up, although the plot is of secondary importance.

What is most important is the metamorphosis -- the transformation characters go through.

The idea of change pops up throughout. Julia is changed from a girl perplexed by love to a woman who becomes sure of her love for Proteus. Silvia metamorphoses Valentine from a man who shuns romance to a man of passion. And Valentine and Proteus, who had become enemies because of their love for the same woman, undergo their own metamorphosis and become friends again.

All this insanity is topped off in the wild finale. "Love Has Driven Me Sane," an energetic and rocking celebration of love, life, friendship and most of all, the metamorphosis.