Performance of 'Oklahoma!' 'doin' fine'

By Tina Diedrichsen

Like the song says, "You're doin' fine Oklahoma!", so is the Creighton production of "Oklahoma!" It is a fine performance that is entertaining and fun to watch.

For those few deprived Americans who have never seen "Oklahoma!", it is a lighthearted love story put to music in a rural setting. It was the first of a long list of hit musicals written by Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein.

The Creighton production meets the high quality of theater that one comes to expect from the Creighton Fine and Performing Arts Center. The music is lovely and the dance numbers are well executed, many of the dance sequences are reminiscent of A Company of Dancers performances. The settings are also nice and display a sense of calmness and serenity.

This production has a showcase of outstanding actor/singers and it is hard to mention all of them in one article. The two leads, Laurey and Curly, are portrayed by Kathleen Christal, Arts junior, a veteran of the Creighton stage and Mike Kelly, Arts freshman.

Christal handles her role well as does Kelly. However the two do not really look like the ideal romantic leads. Christal, as Laurey, looks more like Curly's mother than a romantic quest. Their appearances do not take away from the fact that each has a spectacular voice and plays their part well.

The cutest couple award would have to go to Tammy Delaney, Arts junior, and Tom Searl, Arts freshman, who portray Ado Annie and Will Parker. The audience may find itself cheering on Will and Ado Annie instead of Laurey and Curly.

Other stand-outs include Lisa Lee, Arts sophomore, who plays Aunt Eller. She carries off the character's quick wit and criticism along with her down to earth sincerity very well. David Cedi, Arts senior, portrays Ali Hakim with a humorous zest. Hakim is the travelling Persian salesman who is trapped into engaging Ado Annie. Ceci does not even need humorous lines to be funny, his accent and expressions are hilarious themselves.

A surprise performance of the evening is that of Jud Fry, played by Brian Stough, Business junior. Jud is the poor degenerate who no one particularly likes. Stough brings a special warmth to the role and really makes the audience feel sorry for him while they are hating him.

There is no excuse not to see "Oklahoma!". The Fine Arts department has set up eight performance dates, April 18-20 and 25-27 all at 8 p.m. and two Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. on April 21 and 28. Creighton students can see the performances for $3 and adult ticket prices are $5.

Comedy tops theater evening

By Tina Diedrichsen

Once again the Firehouse Dinner Theatre brings the British humor to Omaha with its 19th annual "Oklahoma!" at the Performing Arts Center.

The British have a different brand of humor made evident when watching "You're doin' fine Oklahoma!", a production that is more entertaining and fun to watch.

The lead roles are played by Tammy Delaney and Tom Searl, both Arts juniors. They are adorable as Ado Annie and Will Parker. The audience may find itself cheering on Will and Ado Annie instead of Laurey and Curly.

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