

WHAT'S UP Guide to Arts & Entertainment**AUDITIONS**

Chapin Community Theater will hold auditions for "Mama 'N' Em," 7 p.m. today in the Chapin Community Theater, 107 Columbia Ave., Chapin, S.C. Available roles are for five women and four men ages 35-80. Must be able to do a convincing upstate South Carolina accent. For more information, call 772-3720.

Town Theatre will hold auditions for "Prescription: Murder" 7:30 p.m. today. Roles are available for four men and three women in range in age from early 20's to 50's. Perusal scripts are available. For more information, call 799-2510.

BALLET

The Columbia City Ballet presents "The Nutcracker," directed by William Starett and accompanied for the first time by the full 50-plus member South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Nicholas Smith. The show runs at 8 p.m. until Sunday, and tickets are \$8 and \$10 for children and students, \$16.50 and \$18.50 for adults and \$5.00 for balcony, on sale now.

CONCERTS

The Benedict College Concert Choir presents "A Special Kind of Christmas" featuring Yuletide Music by contemporary composers 7 p.m. Sunday in the Alisdal Chapel on Benedict's Campus. The performance is free.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia will hold a Holiday Cafe with music, food, drama, comedy and dancing featuring performances by Gloria Talcove-Woodward, Jessica Slotkin, Pat and Don Mohr, Jon Ustaine, The Play Readers, Brian Cassedy and others, 7 p.m. Friday. Call 799-0845 for more information.

MOVIES

Nickelodeon Theatre will feature films through Dec. 14 by Ingmar Bergman including 1972's "Cries and Whispers," with showtimes at 7 and 9 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for members of the Columbia Film Society, \$4.50 for students and senior citizens and \$5.50 for non-members.

MUSEUMS / GALLERIES**McKissick Museum**

The work of talented USC graduate art students will be on display until Dec. 18. "The Annual MFA Exhibit" will feature works by Vicky Heapee, Bingjian Zhang and Shinli Zhou, who are all working towards a master of fine arts degree.

The USC art department faculty show is featuring approximately 40 recent works in a variety of media, including paintings, drawings, mixed media, printmaking, photography, watercolors, jewelry and sculpture. The exhibit will run through Feb. 12.

Columbia Museum of Art

"Richard Estes: The Complete Prints" will run through Dec. 11. This is the first traveling exhibition surveying the print work of photo-realist Richard Estes. Admission is free.

South Carolina State Museum

The museum has introduced a new exhibit, "Brain Teaser," that includes a puzzle so difficult the curator is offering a free museum membership to the first visitor who can solve it.

PLANETARIUM

"Season of Light" at the Gibbes Planetarium is open. The show begins with the winter solstice and examines how ancient cultures celebrated this dark time with their warmest and brightest holidays of the year.

TELEVISION

"The Eagles in Spotlight" is a reunion concert at 8:58 p.m. Friday on SCETV.

THEATER

Drayton Hall
USC Theatre presents "The Christmas Candle," an original music play based on an old German fairy tale, Wednesday through Sunday at Drayton Hall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Town Theatre

"Lend Me a Tenor" opens today and will run through Dec. 17. Tickets are \$8 for students.

The Play's The Thing

Original work by USC professor opens Wednesday

LUPE EYDE Carolina Editor

Do you believe in miracles or fairy tales? If yes, then bring your imagination along to the University of South Carolina's production of "The Christmas Candle" Wednesday through Sunday at Drayton Hall.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

"The Christmas Candle" is an original musical. Music and lyrics are by composer Dick Goodwin, a USC music professor, and script and lyrics are by John MacNicholas, a USC playwright in residence.

The play, based on an old German fairy tale relatively unknown in this country, tells the story of two children who put their broken doll and teddy bear on the window ledge on Christmas Eve. They hope the toys will be repaired by Santa Claus. An angel carries the toys to Santa's workshop where, after many adventures, they are repaired and returned to the children at sunrise on

Christmas Day, just before the family awakens.

"The Christmas Candle" tells how broken families can survive grievous damage," MacNicholas said. "The journey that the teddy bear and the girl's doll take to be repaired requires courage and self-reliance. This dramatization demonstrates how hope in a frightening and chaotic world can, and must, spring from these virtues. Transformation and repair are earned, not magically applied. The story communicates on several levels to both adults and children," he said.

Margit Resch, the playwright's wife, grew up in Germany hearing this story recited from her own storybook year after year. Immediately following World War II, new dolls and toys for German children were non-existent, so the tradition of small children putting their chipped, scratched and broken toys outside on the window ledge for Santa's Angel to repair was, for Magrit's generation, more than a symbolic gesture.

The cast includes a brother and a sister, who become the dolls, and the children's mother and grandfather. Other

characters are Santa, a lively Christmas angel named Fitzroy and a chorus who work in Santa's workshop. The story is in present day South Carolina. Although it speaks to family values, it is not a religious story, MacNicholas said.

Goodwin and MacNicholas have been working on this musical for the past two years. MacNicholas' plays have been performed in some of the very best theatres in the nation, and Goodwin's resume embraces virtually every musical genre, from popular to opera, chamber music to symphony orchestra and jingle to jazz.

Jim Patterson, a professor in USC's department of theatre, speech and dance, will direct the performance. He has directed over 200 productions in both academic and professional venues, including this summer's hit, "Anything Goes." The orchestra will be directed by Manny Alvarez, former director of the USC school of music.

A special performance will be held Tuesday to benefit the Children's Hospital at Richland Memorial Hospital. Call 777-9353 for more information about tickets and the benefit performance.



Town's 'Tenor' lends rave review

STEPHEN BROWN Staff Writer

Town Theatre's new production of the play "Lend Me a Tenor," a mad-cap adventure that runs through Dec. 17, is a comedy of errors full of zany double entendres leading to consistent roaring laughter.

The plot involves world-class tenor Tito Merelli (Joe Cobb), who arrives in Cleveland to play Othello for the gala season-opening of the Grand Opera Company. But what should have been the biggest night in the theatre's history goes awry when his nervous caretaker Max (Thomas Hagler) lets the singer get a hold of alcohol and women. When Merelli passes out, a substitute Othello must go onstage to try to fool the audience. Max re-

luctantly volunteers for the daunting task. Meanwhile, Merelli awakens and rushes onstage. The events following are clever and lead to a delightful finale.

As the timid nerd Max, who becomes the most acclaimed imposter to grace the Cleveland stage, Hagler began with a little uncertainty about his role, but by the end, delivers a juicy performance with great gusto.

Cobb plays the larger-than-life singer with magnificent theatrical style. His Merelli has a zest for rich experiences that leads him to a near-downfall and propels the play's comic situations. Cobb projects great energy and enthusiasm in the role.

Featured in the play as a seductress and manipulator is USC's very

own Whitney Webb, an advertising junior. She sinks her teeth into the role, conveying a dazzling worldliness as she wields her power over men. Way to go, Whitney!

Kathy Seifert, Kimbi Glenn, Dawn Lutz, Harry Heizer and Dick Calkins round out the energetic cast. The ensemble has an electric chemistry, supplying the play with an incredible comic luster.

The play's set, consisting of two rooms in a deluxe highrise suite, is constructed to perfectly contain the situational comedy. While Merelli's near comatose body is moved from room to room, characters try to seduce each other, and last minute preparations are made to prepare for the disastrous curtain call of the play-with-

in-the-play. The two-sided set design allows concurrent hilarious moments on both parts of the stage.

The cast vividly brings the clever script to life, highlighting the fun and fantasy of becoming a star, falling in love and taking a walk on the wild side.

"Lend Me a Tenor" provides for a great evening full of impressive performances. All students yearning for that last required cultural event for the semester will definitely find this play the most painless possibility imaginable. It is a delightful theatrical comedy sure to please all sorts of tastes.

Town Theatre is located on 1012 Sumter St. Student tickets are \$8. Call 799-2510 for reservations.

Incredible Christmas Computer Clippers



THE PERFECT PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM FOR ONLY \$2,099! (w/ COUPON)


This USAFLEX Multimedia Pentium system comes with everything you need to experience the most exciting software available. It comes complete with 8 MB RAM, a 424 MB Hard Drive, 64-bit PCI video, 14.4 Internal Fax/Modem, 2x Sony CD-ROM drive, SoundBlaster 16 Sound Card, and the amazing Altec Lansing ACS-31 speaker system with subwoofer for earth-shaking bass. The system comes with your choice of a CD chosen from several exciting titles. All USAFLEX systems come with a three-year limited warranty.

\$50 OFF**A MACINTOSH PERFORMA 475****A USA FLEX PENTIUM SYSTEM**

Receive \$50.00 off either computer system shown in this ad when this coupon is presented. Offer good through December 31, 1994. Limit one coupon per customer.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

We are proud to sell products from the following companies at an educational discount:

Apple Computer, Inc. 

USA FLEX**HEWLETT-PACKARD**

A COMPLETE MACINTOSH COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR ONLY \$1,049! (w/ COUPON)

The Macintosh Performa 475 is your ticket to "Cyberbliss". This price includes *everything!* From the monitor to the software, modem to PowerPC™ upgradability; this is the machine that will take you into the future. Some of its features include: a quick 25MHz 68LC040 Processor (upgradable to PowerPC technology when you are), 4 MB of RAM, a 160MB Hard Disk, Performa Plus Display, standard keyboard, Apple Font Pack, ClarisWorks and 12 other software titles, and a Global Village Fax Modem.

UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
— SOUTH CAROLINA'S —
— THE RUSSELL HOUSE —

For more information, contact:
The Computer Desk
777-7917