

A Season Of Change For LCTC



New Formats, Strong Shows Featured During Company’s 51st Season

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Even as rehearsals for the final show of the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company’s (LCTC) 50th season are under way, preparations for the 51st season are ramping up. For Executive Director Chuck Lambert, it is an exciting time and the perfect time to make a few changes.

“We are working with a new season approach for the 51st season. Change is good,” he said. “The last couple of years we have done three musicals and it is very difficult; from one musical to two musicals was very difficult, doing three was monumental. We are cutting back to two musicals.”

Perhaps an even bigger change will be a revamping in when the shows will be presented.

“It is very hard for volunteers — and that is what we live on — to commit (to month-long performances). So we are trying to cut back the length of volunteer commitment time,” Lambert said.

“Economically the cost has gone up tremendously for royalties per performance. Because of that, we are going to run our comedies and dramas one full week versus the two weeks in the past. We will run seven performances, basically Wednesday through Monday, with Sunday matinees. The musicals will run two weeks instead of three. The first week will be Wednesday through Monday, the second week will be Thursday through Monday.”

Lambert stressed that while the length of the shows has been reduced, the number of chances members and theatregoers have to see the show has not.

“I am asking our patrons to look at the schedule and book accordingly,” he said. “Find a night that will work for you. We are giving you some options that traditionally were not open. I think that will help tremendously as well, because the weekends get very busy.”

While there are scheduling changes in the works, what has not changed is the quality of shows that LCTC will be performing this season.

“We are starting the season off with a comedy, ‘The Wicked Witch of Oz,’” Lambert said. “This is very simply the Wicked Witch of Oz and her evil monkey finding themselves in Kansas at a high school where they are putting on the ‘Wizard of Oz.’ She thinks if she can get the ruby slippers from the prima-donna Dorothy, she and her evil monkey can get back to Oz. I think it is a wonderful comedy that people will really enjoy.”

“The Wicked Witch of Oz” will be performed June 13-18.

In July, back by popular demand, will be “Annie, The Musical.”

“I think it will be a fun show,” Lambert said. “It was the last time, and I am sure it will be this time again. It has been 10 years since we have done the show.”

Performances for “Annie” will be July 26-30 and Aug. 3-6.

“Then we are going into October with our murder/mystery ‘Dial ‘M’ For Murder,’” Lambert said. “If you are a murder-mystery fan, this is a very, very popular film that has been around a long time and is a great show.”

Lambert said he was determined that LCTC would get the rights this year to Irving Berlin’s “White Christmas,” after losing the rights to the show during the 50th season.

“I am proud to announce for Christmas we are doing ‘White Christmas,’” he said. “We do have the rights, the deposit has been paid; barring a catastrophe we will be doing the show. Eric Johnson from New York will be coming back to direct it and at this point in time he will be starring in it as well. This will be the first time we have had an equity-paid actor on the Lewis and Clark stage. It is a step up, shall we say.”

Rounding off the season will be the Frank Sinatra comedy “The Tender Trap,” set for February 2013.

“Tender Trap” was the second show LCTC did when they opened in 1962,” Lambert said. “I think repeating a show after 50 years is OK. It is a wonderful show and I am looking forward to doing it again.”

In addition to the regular season shows, LCTC has several special events planning the upcoming months.

“We do not like to keep still, so right after the final show of the 50th season ‘Leading Ladies’ closes in February, we are presenting Reza the illusionist as a fundraiser for the homeless shelter,” Lambert said. “It looks like it will be a wonderful show and we are excited to present that on Feb. 25.”

Lambert added that in April, LCTC would present a free concert by the Air Force Band. Tickets will be available at sponsors throughout the community and at the theatre.

Another fun event that has become an annual tradition is the LCTC Gala held at Minerva’s in March.

“We have the silent auction, a live auction and live entertainment,” Lambert said. “I hear through the rumor mill that the ‘David Letterman Show’ is coming back for the Gala. If you have something unique that you would like to put out for the public to see, this is a great event to donate to. Your name will be listed in the program of sponsors and there will be a large audience that will be exposed to your item. Tickets will be available very soon.”

As always, there is fundraising going on for the non-profit LCTC group.

“We did act one, scene one of Stage 2 of our (Dakota Theatre) restorations project this week,” Lambert said. “You will notice if you drive by and look at the theatre that we have replaced the fire exit wall and door on the south side of the theatre. We need to raise right at \$300,000 and we have raised just under

SEASON | PAGE 10B

Mount Marty College Theatre Costumes Receive Regional Honor

Costumes from the recent Mount Marty College musical, “Once Upon a Mattress,” will be featured at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) being held Jan. 16-21 in Ames, Iowa. The costumes, designed by MMC Adjunct Instructor/Costume Designer Keryl Brady, will appear on stage at the Costume Parade scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20 on the Iowa State University campus.

Andrew Henrickson, Division Chair of Arts & Humanities and the Director of Theatre at Mount Marty College said, “It is so rewarding for everyone that worked on this project to be recognized like this. There were a lot of hours that were put in to get this result.”


Ms. Brady was notified in late November of her second nomination to the Costume Parade. The first being her costume designs for “The Bride of Brachenloch” in the 2010 Overland Park, Kan., festival. Costumes from 12 productions in the region (South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota and Iowa) were nominated for selection to the parade in a process where the garments were blinded, reviewed and ranked by professionals outside of Region V.

“This regional recognition gives accolades to the quality department we have here at MMC,” Henrickson said, “and with our student participation it’s an attribute we hope to continue building on.”

Nearly 1,000 hours were clocked by Ms. Brady and her crew of students to build the costumes for the November musical. Crew members included Gina Dethlefsen, Stickney; Heidi Swanke, Sioux City, Iowa; Caitlin Ostrander, DeSmet; Morgan Hanzlik, Spearfish; Samantha Tobey, Norfolk, Neb.; Sara Hensley, Mondamin, Iowa; Sarah Kokesh, Wagner; Leeza Thompson, Des Moines, Iowa; Deb Williams, Yankton; Nicholas C. Rokahr, Yankton; Chelsey Burbach, St. Helena, Neb.; and Matt Kostel, Yankton.




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