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C A T C H I N G U P O N S O M E

Kid's Stuff

YCTC Offers Lessons On 'How To Eat Like A Child' At Dakota Theatre

BY ALISSA WOOCKMAN
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Do you remember what it was like to be a kid? Would you like to watch that amazing childhood play out on stage?

Well, thanks to Yankton Children's Theatre Company, get ready for a nostalgia trip that will have you and the whole family laughing.

YCTC is preparing for a production of "How To Eat Like A Child" set to run June 25-28. It is a comical journey through the joys and sorrows of being a child. The performers give 23 lessons in being a kid, including how to beg your parents for a dog, how to torture your sister and how to make prank phone calls.

"This play is different than other plays," Director Jacob Smith said. "Most plays have a story line that they follow, but this one has little bits and pieces of what it is like to be a child."

This musical is based on a book by Delia Ephron. The musical version began its life as an NBC prime time special starring Dick Van Dyke in 1981. Several of the special's young performers went on to achieve child stardom in their own right, most notably Corey Feldman, Billy Jacoby and Georg Olden.

Smith and assistant director Haylee Heinemeyer have been members of the YCTC board for more than a year now. Recently, this directing duo decided to take on "How to Eat Like a Child" after doing research on the internet for ideas on their summer production.

"For adults, it reminds them of the things they did when they were a child," said Smith. "They can also recognize these attributes in their own children, so it will be really fun to watch."

This particular production involves 26 actors/actresses from ages 4 to 18. The children are required to audition for various parts in the play. During practices, the kids go through their acting talents and the directors give little tips on character development.

Since singing is a requirement for the audition process, participants who choose not to sing can still be a part of the team. The kids can do anything



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

One of the larger musical numbers from the Yankton Children's Theatre Company production of "How To Eat Like A Child." Pictured are, from left: Francisco Reyes, Alyson Johnson, Ryann Wesseln, Kaycee Smith and Julia Reyes.

from set design to hair and makeup.

"We had more kids try out for this particular play than the previous production," said Smith.

"We had some girls that didn't want to act but wanted to help with behind-the-scenes stuff," Heinemeyer added.

For the past few months, the cast has been rehearsing at the Moose Lodge down the street while the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company wrapped up its production of "Nunsense." YCTC cast will move into the Dakota Theatre this weekend to begin preparations for their performances.

"It will be a pretty big adjustment," Heinemeyer said. "The stage is totally different and the professional lighting will be a big change to adapt to, for the little ones especially."

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. This production is also offering half price tickets for the opening night on Thursday, June 25.

"It depicts little things that kids do every day," Smith said. "It's a pretty funny play."

CAST AND CREW

Arlene — Ryann Wesseln
Kimberley — Eva Reyes
Paula — Julia Reyes
Corey — Seth Fargo
George — Sky Nockles
Rachel — Kaitlin Paulson
Brandon — Nicholas Nayokpuk
Billy — Quinn Fargo
John — Macklin McNatt
Andy — Leila Schmacher
Sunshine — Lily Lawrence
Rebecca — Ashli Aguirre
Darian — Alyson Johnson
Christi — Kaycee Smith
Rickey (Ricky) — Natalie Nayokpuk
Brooklyn — Jasmine Gill
Ralph — Carson Heinemeyer
Emily — Carley LaFrentz
Janell — Isabelle Fredig
Franky — Francisco Reyes
Theresa — Stori Westphal
Jill — Kenidi Andera
Joe — Jackson Lawrence
Bob — Teddy Fargo
Shelby — Tevan Nayokpuk
Wendy — Myka Fargo
* Backstage — Taryn Bailey

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Offering lessons on "How to Beg for a Dog" are, from left: Quinn Fargo, Nicholas Nayokpuk and Sky Nockles. The Yankton Children's Theatre Company production of "How To Eat Like A Child" will be served up June 25-28 at the Dakota Theatre in downtown Yankton.

See What's Growing During Annual Garden Tour

BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON
P&D Correspondent

One thing leads to another in yard renovations. Allen and Arlene Stoebner of Yankton upgraded their home exterior about five years ago, and they have been dressing up their yard since then. The public can get to peek at their progress next week, as the Stoebners' curb appeal front yard and retreat back yard are one of the six stops on the Yankton Garden Tour Saturday, June 27th.

Arlene retired from teaching Yankton elementary children after more than 40 years. Now she substitute teaches in Yankton. Allen is a machine tradesman in the metal department at Shur-Co.

Stoebners find plants they like and fit their landscape plan suggested by Jay and Mike Gurney of Yankton Nurseries. Colorful, hardy perennials complement and contrast with their new brick and siding house exterior. Gurneys have become one of their "go to" plant resources.

Perennials add moments of color to the Stoebners' front yard during the season. These include: Topiary burning bush, Korean tree lilac, daylilies, Threadleaf Coreopsis, Globe Blue spruce, Golden Elder and Spirea. The plants provide height and symmetry in the full sun flowerbeds. Arlene enjoys picking colorful varieties. Allen likes the look of a manicured yard and spends time outdoors in yard work.

Enthusiast for the child's wonder in us, Arlene motions to an ornamental tree with



PHOTO: BRENDA K. JOHNSON

Allen and Arlene Stoebner have a retreat back yard. Here you'll find cool shade, the sound of water rippling over stones, majestic hostas and accents of color. See their yard and five others on the Yankton Tour of Lawns and Gardens on Saturday, June 27.

peep sounds. Near eye level, the tree is also shelter for a robin's nest of baby birds. Then she shows where caterpillars had eaten her colorful butterfly plant by the front steps. She discovered online that butterfly plants are

milkweeds. Pupae later turned into hundreds of Monarch butterflies right by her front door. All this nature on a city lot!

Allen's Tip: Gurneys suggested that a

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COMING UP

- The Eighth Annual Yankton Tour of Lawns and Gardens
- Saturday, June 27
- First stop is at 1905 Green St.
- Tickets are sold at first stop between 9-11 a.m..
- Tickets for \$10, include luncheon.
- Questions? See Facebook "Missouri Valley Master Gardeners" page or call 605-660-4736.

front yard Golden Elder that had outgrown its space could be pruned to a height of about six inches in the fall. This is a rejuvenating step if needed for some shrubs. Allen found that this step works for Spirea. Allen achieves the topiary globe appearance for Spirea with an electric and hand hedge trimmers. He shirs three or more times a season to get this look. Barberry shrubs can be shirred into globes too. But he thinks that barberries cannot tolerate the severe rejuvenation step.

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