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KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Anna (Jaime Ness) and the King (Michael Carlson) dance in the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company's production of the classic musical "The King and I." The play opens its two-weekend run at the Dakota Theatre in downtown Yankton June 5. To see or purchase images from this event, visit [spotted.yankton.net/](http://spotted.yankton.net/).

## 'The King And I' Holds Court In Dakota Theatre

BY DEREK BARTOS

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While "The King and I" is widely regarded as a classic of musical theater, the production can be a difficult one to find.

However, Yankton's Lewis & Clark Theatre Company is offering area theatregoers a chance to see the performance as it kicks off its new season next week at the Dakota Theatre.

"It's a show that just doesn't come around a lot," said director Andy Henrickson. "People should be intrigued by it, because it's a rare production and it's a show that's a little bit unique and unlike what people are used to seeing."

Based on a true story, the musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II tells the tale of Anna (Jaime Ness), an English widow who travels to Bangkok in 1862 at the request of the King of Siam (Michael Carlson). The King is viewed as a barbarian by people in the West, and he seeks Anna's help to tutor his many children and wives to help repair his image.

"It's the story of how she shows up in this totally new world, and it's unlike anything she's ever seen before with how much power the King has and the treatment of women," Henrickson said. "She doesn't quite see things the same way. So the story is about how the King and Anna learn from one another and appreciate one another."

The musical is seen as a unique love story, he said, and features an unpredictable conclusion.

"For those that don't know the story, the ending



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

The large cast for the Lewis and Clark Theatre Company production of "The King and I" features several actors and actresses portraying the king's wives and children.

would come as a shock," Henrickson said.

The director added that, for many, the plot may seem similar to "The Sound of Music."

"They're both stories of how a group of children come to love a woman," he said. "In 'The Sound of Music,' it's Maria, and in 'The King and I,' it's Anna."

"The King and I" also features a "show within a show," Henrickson said, as the production features a ballet performance that lasts about 15 to 20 minutes.

"Again, we're not used to that," he said. "'Oklahoma!' does have a ballet production, but it's nothing like this, with the Eastern culture presented."

Along with the music and

the story, audience members will be impressed before the show even begins, Henrickson said. Both the set and costumes are extremely colorful and very different from those of Western musicals, he said.

"When the curtain opens, there's definitely going to be that moment of 'Oh my, we've never seen anything like this before,'" he said. "It's very grand."

"The King and I" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. June 5-6 and at 2 p.m. June 7-8. The following week, performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. June 12-14 and at 2 p.m. June 15. Tickets for Thursday showings are half-price.

For ticket information, visit the Dakota Theatre box office at 328 Walnut St. be-

tween 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday-Friday, or call 605-665-4711.

"Come and enjoy," Henrickson said. "It will be very entertaining in a unique way."

### CAST

King: Michael Carlson;  
Anna Leonowens: Jaime Ness;  
Lady Thiang: Jessica Tice;  
Tuptim: Sara German; Krala-

home: Beau Fleming; Lun Tha: Gage Blaschke; Louis: Blake Wieseler; Prince Chulalongkorn: Gage Becker; Captain Orton: Craig Anderton; Sir Edward Ramsay: Jim Reimler; Interpreter: Vincent Raia; Phra Alack: Alex Fields; Royal Wives: April Gawboy, Amber Emanuel, Olivia Hudson, Vicki Geiser, Maddie Henrickson and Taylor Wesseln; Royal Children: Natalie Nayokpuk, Jasmine Gill, Jackie Holman, Carley Lafrentz, Zoie Lee Mar-

cotte, Willa Reimler, Hope Leshner, Nate Schoenfelder, Zandi Weiland, Seth Fargo, Nicholas Nayokpuk and Ginger Leshner; Siamese Guards: Jacob Smith and Jordan Kuipers; Priests of Siam: Steven Buchy, Andrew Pietz, Ted Anders, Vincent Raia and Craig Anderton; Amazons: Gabrielle Slowey and Lauren Bruening; Deck Hands: Andrew Peitz and Ted Anders; Uncle Thomas: Story Leshner; Eva: Elisabeth Rettig; Topsy: Catherine Perakslis; Eliza: Mikayla Vetter; King Simon: Gabrielle Swenson; Buddha: Manny Valadez; Angel/George: Tawnee Weiland; Chorus Dancers: Brenna Becker, Kelsey Westerman, Hannah Rembert and Rachel Wood; Dogs: Andrew Peitz, Quinn Fargo, Alex Fields; Ensemble: Jordan Kuipers, Steven Buchy, Ted Anders, Jacob Smith and Vincent Raia.

### CREW

Music Director/Conductor: Kenneth Tice; Scenic/Lighting/Sound Design: James Hovland; Master Carpenter: Russ; Costume Design: Janelle Wieseler; Costumes: Stacey Peitz; Choreographer: Kathryn Rose Reimler; Rehearsal Accompanist: Dixie Church; Hair Design: Lelia Elder; Stage Managers: Alex Fields and Andrew Peitz.

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