

Once Upon A Mattress



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Mount Marty College brings the off-Broadway hit play “Once Upon a Mattress” to the Marian Auditorium stage Nov. 10-12. The play is a comedic adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea.” LEFT: Princess Winnifred (April Knapp) belts out the song “I’m Shy” as Prince Dauntless (Nathan Porras) cowers in fear during a scene from the MMC production. ABOVE: Prince Dauntless is pictured with his parents, queen Aggravain (Lisa Keogh) and King Sextimus (Jim Reimler). For ticket information, call the box office at (605) 668-1234 from noon-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

MMC Presents ‘Big’ Stage Comedy Next Weekend

BY NATHAN JOHNSON
nathan.johnson@yankton.net

When Andy Henrickson talks about Mount Marty College’s fall production of “Once Upon a Mattress,” one word keeps coming up again and again: Big. It’s a big show with a big cast, big color and big musical numbers. And the Mount Marty College theater professor hopes that it will lead to big audiences.

In fact, Henrickson said next week’s show will be the biggest production he has directed at the Catholic Benedictine liberal arts college during his 14 years there.

He and Stephen English, the instructor of theater design and the technical director for the theater, made a conscious decision to take full advantage of the newly-renovated Marian Auditorium, which has new seats and lighting among other things.

“We thought, ‘Let’s have our first show be big,’” Henrickson said. “For us, this show is big. We have more than two dozen actors. Our company is more than 70 people. We have an orchestra. We really wanted to celebrate the opening (of Marian Auditorium). To fill the new seats is probably the number one goal.”

The musical is one that has had various incarnations since it debuted off-Broadway in 1959. Later that year, it moved to Broadway with legendary actress Carol Burnett in the role of Princess Winnifred. It was her Broadway debut.

The show went on to tour the country in 1960. In 1996, it was revived on Broadway with Sarah Jessica Parker, Lewis Cleale and Jane Krakowski among the cast members.

Three television versions have been made, the most recent of which aired in 2005.

The story itself is an adaptation of the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale “The Princess and the Pea.” The story involves Princess Winnifred (played by April Knapp), who must overcome the obstacles put forth by the evil Queen Aggravain (Lisa Keogh) to marrying her son, Prince Dauntless (Nathan Porras). Also, local theater veteran Jim Reimler plays King Sextimus, who is mute due to a curse.

“It’s one of those shows where people think they might know it but aren’t sure,” Henrickson said. “It’s not a common name that everybody knows. It’s not ‘Grease.’ It’s not ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.’ It’s not ‘The Sound of Music.’ But it’s a delightful show.”

The musical features costume design by Keryl Brady, choreography by Kathryn Rose Reimler and

music conducting by S. Patricia Ann Toscano. The construction of an elaborate stage was overseen by English.

“I can tell people they have never seen anything like what they’re going to see here,” Henrickson said.

He lavished praise upon the quality of the cast, especially Knapp, who is making her debut on the Mount Marty College stage.

“She has quite a voice,” Henrickson said. “She just has a natural talent.”

Henrickson is no stranger to the play. He was part of the chorus in a 1985 production at the Black Hills Playhouse.

“I had a blast,” he said.

However, despite his familiarity with the material and the various theater and television incarnations of the production, Henrickson said he has striven to make the show his own.

He thinks the result will be something that people of any age will be able to enjoy.

“It’s appropriate for all. A 4-year-old will be engaged with it. A 40-year-old will enjoy some of the humor,” Henrickson stated. “It’s going to be really delightful to the eye. This is a very colorful production.”

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10-12. Doors open at Marian Auditorium on the Mount Marty College campus at 7 p.m.

Advance tickets are encouraged and can be reserved by calling the box office at (605) 668-1234 from noon-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

THE CAST

- April Knapp — Princess Winnifred
- Nathan Porras — Prince Dauntless
- Lisa Keogh — Queen Aggravain
- Jim Reimler — King Sextimus
- Leeza Thompson — Minstrel
- Heidi Swanke — Jester
- Kaleb Carsten — Sir Harr
- Micaela Rausch — Lady Larken
- Kalib Hereen — Wizard
- Steven Hoff — Knight
- Vincent Humble — Knight
- Kevin White — Knight
- Amy Berning — Knight
- Kevin Cosman — Knight
- Haley Lind — Knight
- Dylan Babel — Knight
- Stacey Schleich — Lady in Waiting
- Julie Schrier — Lady in Waiting
- Kim Velk — Lady in Waiting
- Jessica Polk — Lady in Waiting
- Megan Leader — Lady in Waiting
- Piper Wegener — Lady in Waiting
- Amanda Uthe — Lady in Waiting

Welcome to the World

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in October 2011:

AAYAYA	CAMRYN	JESSICA	RYLAN
ARIYA	ELIAS	JOCelyn	SHAILI
ASHLEY	ELLIE	KALEB	SHAILIAH
ATHENA	EMMA	KENDALL	SHANE
AUDEN	ETHAN	KENZIE	SPIRIT WIND
BENTLEY	GRANT	LEAH	TEAGAN
BENTLEY	HAILEY	LONDYNN	TENLEY
BRANDON	HELENA	MCKENZIE	TRISTAN
BRAYDEN	HENRY	PAISLEY	WANJI WIYAKA SA
BRENNAN	HINHANNA WICAPI WI	PARKER	WESTIN
BRENNEN	JANAAYA	PEYTON	ZANE
BRYNLEY	JASON	ROMAN	
CAMERON	JAYTON	RONIN	

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

www.AveraSacredHeart.com

Every baby born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital goes home with a complimentary child passenger safety seat.

“We thought, ‘Let’s have our first show be big. For us, this show is big. We have more than two dozen actors. Our company is more than 70 people. We have an orchestra. That’s big for us. We really wanted to celebrate the opening (of Marian Auditorium). To fill the new seats is probably the number one goal.”

ANDY HENRICKSON