

'Music Man' pulling out all stops

In a year of firsts at North Carolina Wesleyan College, one is the upcoming theater production at the Dunn Center for the Performing Arts, a full-scale musical the likes of which has never been seen on the NCWC campus.

"The Music Man," the perennially popular show by Meredith Wilson, involves more than 60 actors, the biggest cast ever assembled for a Wesleyan theater production.

Performances will be in the Minges Auditorium on April 18-

20 and April 25-27 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for general admission, \$4 for students, and are available at the door or by phoning the box office at 985-5197 between 4-6 p.m.

Wesleyan has done smaller musicals, including "Nonsense" and "Little Shop of Horrors," but nothing as big as "The Music Man," said director Vaughn Schutz.

"Because of our bigger space in the new Dunn Center, we have purposely chosen a large cast musical with lots of singing and

dancing," he said. "We wanted to involve as many community people as we could, so it's really a community show. The range of ages of the performers is from four to age 80. Actually, the little ones can't even read. There are 60 cast members in all."

In the title role, as the quick-on-his-feet con man Harold Hill, is Clay Jackson, a junior majoring in theater, who recently played Frank Butler in the Playhouse's "Annie Get Your Gun."

Harold finds resistance to his schemes in the form of librarian and piano teacher Marian Paroo, played by Playhouse and Wesleyan Theater veteran Melinda K. Harden.

Joining Wesleyan's theater for the first time is Max Miller as Marian's younger brother Winthrop, who sings the song, "Gary, Indiana." Audiences will also enjoy seeing Kevin Corbett, Jim Singleton, Missy Harbach, Drew Davis, Charlotte Pettit, and a host of other familiar faces.

"Some of the cast who haven't

been in a show before, are amazed at how fragmented a big musical is, in preparation," Schutz said. "They learn songs and go over different pieces, not in sequence, and it's only when we begin putting it together that they understand how it all fits."

"The kid playing Winthrop, Max Miller, has no fear. When he sings he really projects throughout the entire theater," Schutz added.

Backstage, Jan Zarr is the new Dunn Center technical director, whose sets will include everything from a library to a train to a high school gym. Assisting Schutz are Michael McAllister as musical director and Alison DeNio as choreographer. DeNio, who choreographed "Nonsense," is a professional actress and choreographer from Greensboro.

The crew for "The Music Man" is also large and includes three stage managers, four on the costume crew, six people moving scenery, another three flying scenery, four in the booth, and, lastly,

a babysitter.

Students in the college's makeup class will help with the makeup, and the college is borrowing almost 200 costumes for the production from the Rocky Mount Playhouse, the Oxford Little Theatre, Wilson's Shoe-string Theater, and Campbell University.

The college is renting scenery from the Dick Van Dyke Broadway tour of "The Music Man," and the East Carolina Wind Ensemble will be the orchestra.

A local Rocky Mount barber-shop quartet will sing the quartet part, moving throughout the story like a Greek chorus.

"We're excited about 'The Music Man.' This is a big time production," Schutz said. "We do professional theater, we believe this is really good theater, and at \$6 for adults and \$4 for students, it's a great deal."

"We hope the community will enjoy this All-American favorite," he said. "'The Music Man' is good wholesome, family fun."

Bloodmobile here today

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be on campus today from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. in the Student Activities Center.

Those interested in giving blood and who want an appointment should call the Student Life office at x5177. All blood types are needed, especially O-positive and O-negative.

Donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 11 lbs., have taken no antibiotics within 48 hours prior to donating blood, and have had no tattoos in the past 12 months.

Most anemics are able to give blood and diabetics are now allowed to give blood. Donors are advised not to give blood on an empty stomach.

PSI CHI IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

If you are interested in joining this national psychology honors society, see Dr. Quinan immediately for more information.

