

BROADWAY REHEARSAL:

IT'S WORK, WORK, WORK

By Mark Barron

Opening night of a topflight musical show on Broadway isn't as simple as the gay premiere performance seems to indicate. It means work, work, work on the part of librettists, composers, stars, chorus girls, electricians, stage hands and the scores of others who are needed to raise the curtain on a triumphant opening night.

Typical is the musical, "Whoop-Up," which will open on Broadway on December 18. Similar to an automobile assembly line, the musical is the result of expertly assembling many various parts.

Rehearsals are subdivided into several sections. The leading players rehearse their lines without music. Dancers, who must begin rehearsing a week earlier than the other players, and the singers rehearse in separate groups. All these are later neatly hemstitched together.

Rehearsals are constantly interrupted by trips to the costume designers for fittings, to the hairdressers and to various other establishments needed for the cast to get ready for opening night. A "run-through" or dress rehearsal without sets is staged on the night before opening.

On this page, "Whoop-Up" begins to take shape, in its early hard-rehearsal days.



REPEAT PERFORMANCE. Choreographer Onna White puts the dancers through a fast number. Steps are done over and over, until they're perfected.



Onna White demonstrates a step while Tina Faye, left, who will perform the dance when the show opens, watches.



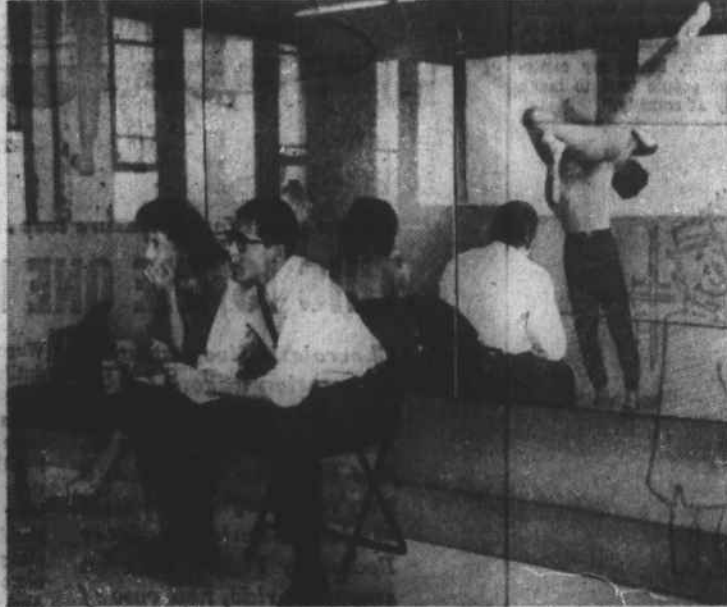
Co-producer Ernest Martin discusses script with P. J. Kelly, 78, who's said to be oldest actor on Broadway. Kelly will portray a 105-year-old Indian Chief.



Actors Paul Ford and Susan Johnson, two of the principals in show, indulge in a bit of by-play during a break in rehearsals.



Dancers emulate choreographer Onna White, center, as she teaches them new number for show.



Actors enjoying brief rest watch rehearsal of dancers Eleanor Dian and Salvador Juarez, who are reflected in mirror on wall.



After three hours of dancing, Tina Faye is too tired to join rest of cast for lunch. Instead she stretched out on row of chairs for rest.

The World's PICTURE SHOW—AP Wirephotos.

