

You're Doing Fine - OKLAHOMA

You're Doing Fine

When Rodgers and Hammerstein wrote the lyric, "You're doing fine, OKLAHOMA," they could not only have been talking about the state but the entire show as well. Like most musicals, OKLAHOMA is a light and entertaining show. It involves hard work, with precisely choreographed movements, not to mention the musical scores, technical work, costume designs, and hours of rehearsals. Rodgers and Hammerstein devoted their best talents to help them produce the musical, and we feel that WCC is fortunate to share the benefits of these talents.

The Set

The set for the musical production will be the typical OKLAHOMA setting with farmhouse, barn, shed, an old smokehouse, corn fields, and, of course, that "bright golden haze on the meadow."

The technical crew is under the direction set designer of Bud Mayes, along with Debbie Frazier, Steve Woodie, and Ralph Holbrook.

Other important members of the production are Sue Duncan, Assistant Director; Ralph Holbrook, Stage Manager; and Lighting and Properties, Susan Zachary.

The Principals

The principals in OKLAHOMA have put many hours of long, hard work into developing the characters they portray. Some have been involved in previous straight, comic, and musical plays. For others, it will be the first foot on a stage. The principals in OKLAHOMA include Eric Jennings as Curley McLean. Eric is a student at Appalachian where he is majoring in Speech. Laurey Williams is portrayed by June Waugh, a chorus teacher at North High. Aunt Eller Murphy, a buxom, hearty woman is played by Molly Beers, a co-owner of Brenda's Ladies Apparel. A band director at West High appears as the purky Ado Annie Carnes. Will Parker, a rough-tough cowpoke is played by Charles Hale of WCC. John Cashion portrays Ali Hakim, Persian peddler. The villain of the show is Jud Fry, played by David Aaron of WWWC radio.

Other principal roles will be played by Bill Frazier, a junior at Alexander Central. Cord Elam is played by Jim Robinson, a WCC student in the Hotel-Motel Management program. Denise "Rusty" Rush will play the giggly Gertie Cummings. Denise is also a student at WCC. Jeff Reeves will play a cowpoke friend to Will Parker. Jeff, too, is a student at WCC. Ron White will play Andrews Carnes, the "rabbit-shooting" Paw. Ron is also a student at WCC.

COSTUMES

Costumes? for twenty-six people! Ann Moffett and Helen Cashion have had the difficult task of creating costumes for the OKLAHOMA production. The costumes will consist of country style dress for the majority of the cast. The girls will wear long full skirts with petticoats and fancy drawers.



Perfect Springtime Show

Have you ever tried to piece together anything that at first seemed an impossibility? After you did you probably sat back and admired yourself as well as marvelled at your creative talents, previously dormant. Well, such things are happening with the cast of OKLAHOMA.

Imagine one room with actors, another with dancers, and yet another with musicians and vocalists. Bring them together and you have a hodge-podge of total confusion. Look ahead at your deadline, and then you realize that something has to give.

On May 10, the College Theatre will present its first full-scale musical under the direction of Bud Mayes. The rehearsals have continued steadily for the past six weeks, and the production is now ready to be shared with the Wilkes community. Cast members come not only from the college itself, but also from elementary and high school students, teachers, residents of Boone, and others with varied occupations. Mr. Mayes informs us that it is an "excellent" cast that has been a tremendous challenge for the

director. He promises a "fantastic" show.

As Mayes took a few minutes from his busy schedule to talk with us about the production, we learned that OKLAHOMA will be the "perfect springtime show." It is pure entertainment for the family and all ages. Mayes commented on the hard-working cast, chorus, and orchestra as being "harmoniously suited for the WCC stage." Concerning the orchestra, Mayes states that Dr. Mayer has it uniquely placed in the auditorium.

One of the difficult tasks of any director is to instill a characterization within the actor and his role. However, Mayes commented that each member of OKLAHOMA had a distinctive character in his or her assigned role. He suggested that this is "No copy of the Broadway or movie versions."

Mayes is enthusiastic about the musical. In turn, each member of the cast is excited. It is the hope of the director, as well as each cast member, that the audience will be just as excited. OKLAHOMA is doing fine, and in our opinion so are Bud Mayes and his cast.

'Sandy And Her Dancers

In any musical the person who has a most difficult job is the choreographer. The lady who has this task in OKLAHOMA is a most accomplished ballet instructor known to her friends as "Sandy."

Sandy Smalling, a graduate of Virginia Intermont College in Bristol, was a fine arts major. She has chosen to teach dance as her career.

Sandy has given innumerable hours to choreographing such things as a ballet which will be performed by seven girls to the song "Many A New Day." She says that this has been one of her "most pleasing" dances. There is also a lively dance performed by the guys to the song "Kansas City." This number includes tap dancing and other lively steps. Other dance sequences include a fast-moving square dance performed to "The Farmer and the Cowman." Sandy has described this dance as "pure fun." The "Dream Ballet" has been the greatest challenge for the choreographer, but it will be stunning as it is performed on stage.

The job of teaching dance to us with the two left feet has not been very easy. But Sandy

was there whenever she was needed. Her patience has been extraordinary; her kindness, even more. The lovely and graceful choreographer has been there to help each dancer individually and has always given encouragement to those who felt they could never do it.

From each of the dancers who has worked most closely with Sandy, and from each member of the OKLAHOMA cast, "we think you're pretty GRAND!"

The people who were chosen by Sandy Smalling and Bud Mayes as dancers in the show are Kara Carpenter, Donna Duncan, Karen Kitchens, Pam Long, Peggy Gambill, Penny Mitchell, and Diane Prevet. The guys are as follows: Charles Hale, Red Jones, Jeff Reeves, Jim Robinson, and Lenzie McMillan.

COME AND
SEE
OKLAHOMA

MUSICAL DIRECTORS

Two men who are seen around campus quite often are Dr. Bob Mayer and newcomer, Dr. Dick Neubert. These two men are also contributing their talents to OKLAHOMA. Dr. Mayer is directing the orchestra for the musical. Many of the members have had to drive from Boone for the rehearsals. The orchestra makes the musical more vivid for the audience and brings just that special touch of a Broadway flavor to an amateur stage.

Dr. Neubert has had the task of transforming into songbirds who need additional vocal training for the musical.

Those unidentified sounds from Room 312 can be identified on May 10. Some of us have discovered that there is a B-Flat as well as a B-Sharp.

Also, that not only is there a tenor, but that there are both a first and a second.

Those members of the cast who are in the chorus include the following: Donna Edwards, Fran Edwards, Sharon Hayes, Jim Billings, Bill Moffett, Kathy Walters, and Cindy Adams. Orchestra members are . . . Violins, Charles Earp, Robert Mayer, Ken Rausk; Viola, Louise Hahn; Cello, Dorothy Earp; Flute, Donna Dabrowski; Oboe, Pam Bailey; Clarinet, William Wilson, Charles Hulcher; Bassoon, Tonja Dabrowski; Trumpet, Charles Myers, Terry Barnhardt; Trombone, James Orr; French Horn, James Eller, Albert Williams; Bass, Edward Baity; Piano, Richard Neubert.

OPENING INFORMATION

OKLAHOMA opens at the Theatre on Friday, May 10, at 8:00 p.m. Admission will be \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. A morning performance for local high school students will be given on Monday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the College

auditorium. The production will be on tour the 14 and 15. The concluding performances will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (May 16-18) at WCC. Make plans now to attend one of the above performances. OKLAHOMA! — O.K.?

