

KMHS Presents 'My Fair Lady'

A large cast of drama, band and choral students will bring "My Fair Lady" to the stage of B. N. Barnes Auditorium Saturday, Sunday and Monday for three performances that reviewers are saying you don't want to miss.

The ambitious production will feature the talents of many Kings Mountain students, many of whom are performing roles in the well-known Broadway musical and others who will be singing and dancing and playing in the band.

Lead speaking roles in the musical are played by Laura Beth Moss as Eliza Doolittle, the cockney flower girl from Lisson Grove working outside the Convent Garden whose potential to become "a lady" becomes the object of a bet between Colonel Pickering, played by Michael Jordan, a retired British officer with colonial experience and Henry Higgins, played by Joe Champion, a professional bachelor of British upper class and world famous phonetics expert, teacher and author of Higgins Universal Alphabet.

The trio also hold the principal vocal parts in the show. Supporting roles and with vocal parts in the musical are Freddy Eynsford Hill, an upperclass young man who become completely smitten with Eliza and played by John Heath; Alfred P. Doolittle, Eliza's father, an elderly but vigorous dustman, portrayed by Chris Bridges; Harry, a drinking companion of Alfred Doolittle portrayed by Rusty McAbee; Jamie, a drinking companion of Alfred Doolittle, portrayed by Rick Lewis; and Mrs. Pearce, Henry Higgins' housekeeper, portrayed by Ayana Barton.

Other key players are Mrs. Eynsford Hill (Michelle Lail), a friend of Mrs. Higgins and Freddy's mother; Mrs. Higgins (Katherine Jenkins), Henry's long-suffering mother; George, the bartender (Jimmy Yarborough), who works the Tottenham Court Road Pub; Prof. Zoltan Karpathy, (Tommy Harrelson), a bearded Hungarian; former phonetics student of Henry Higgins; Ricky Lewis and Cathy Wardlaw as the by-standers.

Also: Rusty McAbee, Rick Lewis, Travis Wells and Mike Payseur as cockneys who form the male quartet; Chuck Bridges as Henry Higgins butler; Chris Putnam as Higgins footman and Lord Boxington, a friend of Mrs. Higgins; Angela Patterson as a flower girl work-

ing Wimpole Street; Chris Putnam and Rick Lewis as footmen, Jimmy Yarborough as a Selsey man; Shan Kiser as a Hoxton man; Sherry Moore, Ayana Barton Adrian Hardin, and Lori Cobb as the maids, Rick Lewis Mike Paysour, Roger Hamm, Shan Kiser as the buskers and servants who form singing and dancing ensembles and Roger Hamm and Chuck Bridges as the stewards.

Performances

- Saturday - 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday - 2:30 p.m.
- Monday - 7:30 p.m.

Tickets:

\$4.00 for adults
\$3.00 for Senior Citizens and Students

A singing and dancing ensemble features Elizabeth Wilson, Chris Putnam, Michelle Lail, Shan Kiser, Ametria Brown, Stephanie Myers and Tina Wells. Elizabeth Wilson is Queen of Transylvania, Chris Putnam is the Ambassador. There are other non-speaking roles including voices from crowd scenes.

"My Fair Lady" features 11 scenes, including the convent garden, the tenement section, Higgins study, outside Ascot, outside Higgins House on Wimple Street, the Tracy Embassy Promenade and the ballroom of the Embassy.

Performances are on Saturday and Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

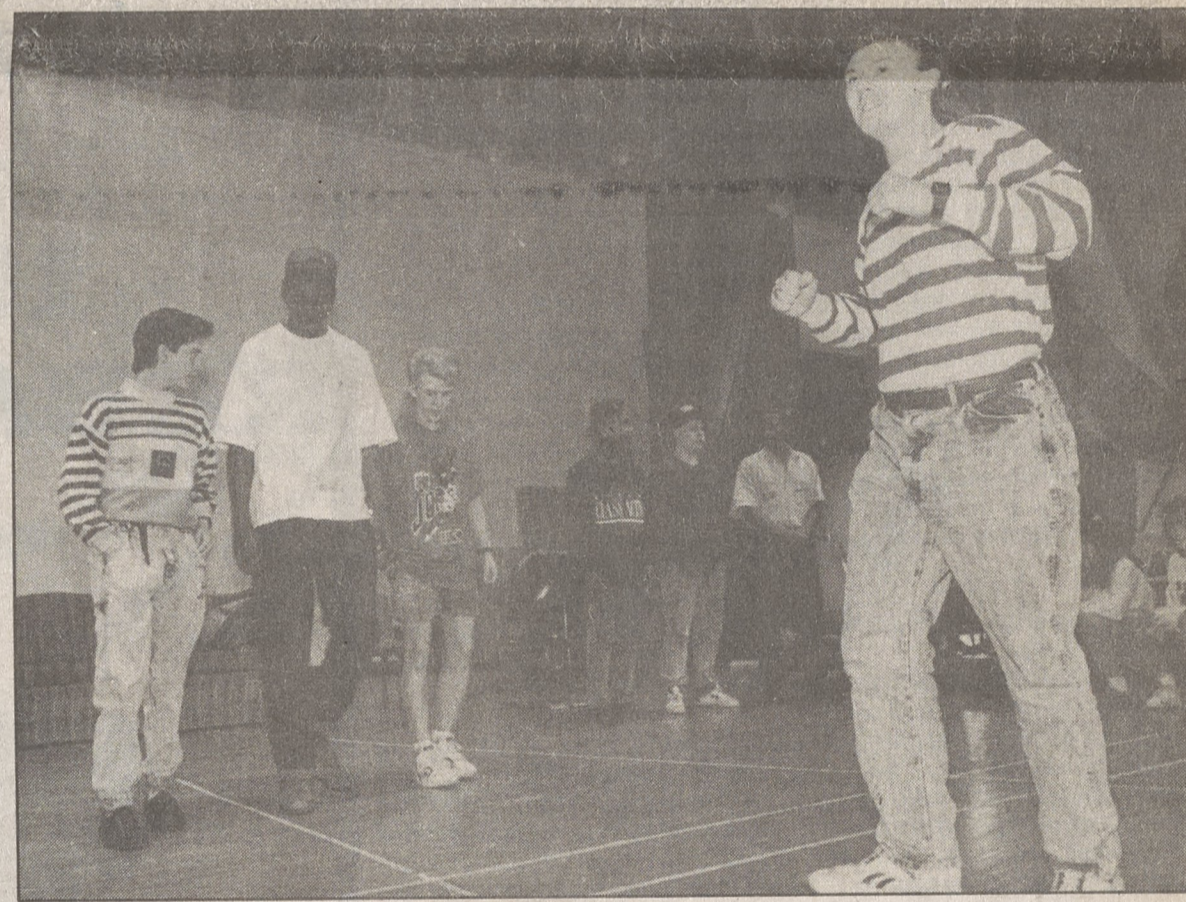
Mrs. Betsy H. Wells is directing the production, assisted by choral director Eugene Bumgardner and instrumental director Dr. Phil Perrin.

"My Fair Lady" is adapted from Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" from the book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe.



Photos by Dieter Melhorn

REHEARSING LINES-Betsy Wells, director of the upcoming musical, "My Fair Lady" at KMSHS, rehearses lines with the lead characters in the show, Laura Beth Moss, who has the lead female role of Eliza Doolittle, and Joe Champion, who has the lead male role as Henry Higgins. A large cast of drama, choral and band students will bring the delightful musical to the stage of Barnes Auditorium Saturday night and Monday night for 7:30 p.m. performances and on Sunday afternoon at a 2:30 p.m. matinee performance.



LINING UP-Students in this weekend's production of the Broadway musical, "My Fair Lady," are displaying a number of talents, from dancing, above, to singing. More than \$2,000 worth of elaborate costumes have been rented for the show which is requiring hours of rehearsals by students.



YOU'LL LOVE THE MUSIC-The musical numbers in "My Fair Lady" feature the multi-talented KMHS students in the chorus, under direction of Gene Bumgardner, and in the band, under direction of Dr. Phil Perrin, of Gardner Webb College, guest conductor. Lynn Echols is at the piano.



DAR DISTRICT WINNER-Mrs. Eugene Roberts, Regent of Colonel Frederick Hambricht Chapter DAR, presents award to Molly Elizabeth Blanton, Bethware 5th grader, as the local and District winner in the recent DAR-sponsored history essay contest. Blanton wrote about inventor Eli Whitney.

Bethware's Molly Blanton Is DAR Essay Contest Winner

Molly Blanton, 11-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Blanton of Route 5, wrote about the American inventor Eli Whitney to win the DAR-sponsored history essay contest in the school system and in District 2 of which Colonel Frederick Hambricht Chapter is a member.

The fifth grader at Bethware School likes history. She is multi-talented, enjoys playing piano and has been active in five recent Kings Mountain Little Theatre productions including the title role as Anne in "Anne of Green Gables." She delighted Little Theater-goers as "Brigitta", one of the Von Trapp Family, in "Sound of Music" and also played in "South Pacific", "What A Scram" and "Velveteen Rabbit." She is a piano student of

Mrs. Linda Dixon and attends First Baptist Church.

Her family includes her six-year-old brother, Adam Trout Blanton, a first grader at Bethware, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Trout and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Blanton.

Molly's prize-winning essay follows:

"Eli Whitney was a famous American inventor. He was born in 1769 on a farm in Massachusetts.

"Eli's father owned a tool shop where Eli often helped his father repair tools. Whitney enjoyed making new things like birdhouses and doghouses.

"Once Eli took his father's watch apart to see what made it tick. Then, he quickly put the watch

back together before his father came home. His father never realized what his son had done. Years later, Eli told his father how he had taken the pocket watch apart.

"When Eli was 15 years of age, Whitney made nails. During the time of the Revolutionary War nails were hard to get and many people wanted them.

"Eli wasn't able to go to college because his father couldn't afford it. Eli worked hard as a teacher for four long years and saved all of his pay. Once he saved enough money, Eli attended Yale College.

"In one of his classes at Yale, the instrument that the chemistry teacher was using suddenly broke, then Eli asked if he could try to repair it instead of having to send it to England. To the teacher's sur-

prise, Eli repaired the instrument successfully and then it worked properly.

"Eli's invention of the cotton gin was not too popular and did not make him rich until after his death. Whitney's cotton gin could separate the cotton from the seed quicker and much cheaper than doing it by hand.

"After his invention of the cotton gin, Whitney gave up making cotton gins and made guns for the government. As a pastime, he repaired toys, tools, and things around his home.

"After his death, Eli Whitney became famous as the inventor of the cotton gin. His invention helped Americans in the South greatly improve the cotton industry."