

Repeating This Weekend

Double Opera Rated Highly

By CHRIS HOUGLUM
Of the Emerald

Two productions—one good, one extraordinary—highlight an evening of opera currently being presented by University Theatre.

The twin presentations—Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" and Menotti's "The Unicorn, the Gorgon, and the Manticore"—were staged Friday and Saturday nights, and are scheduled for repeat performances for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of this week.

Produced in association with the School of Music and the Department of Dance, the playlets offer both an entertaining format to this area, and a commendable quality of execution in both instances.

Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" is a humorous and romantic opera set in the colorful Florence of the past. Generally recognized as one of its author's best works, it is a parody of his many earlier endeavors.

Relatives of the recently deceased Bursoso Donato are shocked when they find that he has bequeathed them nothing in his will, and so employ the services of the wily Gianni Schicchi, a vulgar peasant noted for his guile, in having the document altered.

Director Jean Cutler has done a fine job of accentuating the potential melodramatic and satirical aspects of the production,

and the show thus remains effective and verified without appearing intentionally affected.

Anthony Kadlec's set is superb, as usual, and Don Fibiger's costumes are both colorful and historically accurate. Acting and singing are uniformly good, with Doug Houston as Schicchi, Mary Jo Simonds and Hugh Cardon delivering standout performances.

Only shortcoming of the production was the occasional failure of the cast to project above the music of the University Symphony Orchestra, well directed by James Miller.

The Menotti mime opera is an incredibly beautiful mixed-media affair, an experimental fable which depicts three stages of a poet's life, each portrayed through a fantasy of that particular stage.

Promenading with unicorn in his early life, a gorgon during middle age, and a manticore late in life, the poet is first scorned, then imitated by towns-

people. The manticore takes him to a death of dignity even when he is mocked by those who would destroy his dreams.

There was nothing about this production which was not remarkable. A series of motion pictures, produced by Director Cutler, Ron Finne, and Owen Chamberlain, supplemented stage action effectively — thoroughly captivating and remarkably beautiful, they conveyed the special magic of mixed-media to the presentation.

The stage action, which is wordless, was imaginatively choreographed by Deborah Applegate and was well executed. The stage dialogue, sung extremely well by an ensemble, and backed by a seven-piece chamber orchestra, was consistently lilting, occasionally humorous, and frequently touching.

Kudos to all who participated in the most stimulating and professional presentation to be produced by the UT to my recollection.

Nutty Squirrel Eludes Fuzz

How do you catch a beserk squirrel? Apparently you don't.

That was the conclusion that a campus patrolman, Kyle Mays, and a Eugene city patrolman, Mike Michaelson, reached after more than 45 minutes of intense effort at trying to catch a squirrel.

The animal was apparently spotted making continuous left hand turns in a tree near Hendricks Hall. Students, worried that the rodent might be rabid, called the Eugene City Police Department to remove the animal.

Students and faculty passing by stopped to see what the commotion was and stayed to sympathize with the squirrel or offer helpful hints to the patrolman.

Said one graduate student in counseling psychology, "What a life . . . you can't even chase your tail without people getting all shook up."

Although a tranquilizing gun or regular gun would have undoubtedly been more expedient, the danger of hitting a passerby was too great to be risked.

Because of this, the officers were confined to standing un-

der the tree with cardboard box in hand, waiting for something to happen.

After about 45 minutes of this, the patrolmen decided to give up.

Their only suggestion was to call the biology department to come pick up the animal and take it back for observation.

Tickets Available

Student tickets for the UO-UCLA game will be available at McArthur Court starting at 1 p.m. Tuesday.

There are 5,000 tickets available on a first come, first served basis. The student must present his athletic card, and may obtain only one ticket.

TODAY'S STAFF

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Collier Provides "Shower Power"

As of noon Monday, the men of Collier Hall have been in the showers 301 consecutive hours.

They're out to reclaim the world's showering record, set here by Sheldon Hall last year, and broken recently by Oregon State University.

Collier's leaders, John McClay and Allan Biehl, said there had been close co-operation within the University. They said several dorms in their complex have helped, contributing participants and men to guard the showers from pranksters.

Jim Hart now holds the new world's individual showering record—61 hours. When Collier turns off the showers some time early next weekend, it will be with over 400 straight hours of water down the drain.

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