

Broadway hit makes return

By CHERYL RUDERT

A 25-year-old classic opens tonight at Very Little Theatre (VLT).

In reviving *Guys and Dolls*, one of Broadway's most popular musical comedies, VLT is bringing to the stage an array of characters, lyrics and music that have survived years of relegation to the dinner theater scene. A favorite amongst theater folk, *Guys and Dolls* never really lapsed into the datedness that surrounds many of its contemporaries. Timeless characters like Nicely Nicely Johnson, Angie the Ox, Harry the Horse, Liver Lips Louie and Big Jule have remained as fresh in audiences' memories as songs such as "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat," "Bushel and a Peck," "Luck Be a Lady," or "I've Never Been in Love Before."

Subtitled "A Musical Fable of Broadway," the play is based on a story and characters by Damon Runyon. With music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, *Guys and Dolls* opened on Broadway in 1951 and received the New York Drama Critics Award. The musical is peopled with heroes and heroines who make up the seedier side of Broadway life — gamblers, horse players, bookies, mission workers, nightclub performers and the like.

A show that has the potential for spectacle-staging and broad-gesture approach, *Guys and Dolls* nevertheless is quite adaptable to the intimacies of a small stage.

Dave Sherman's impressionistic set pieces promise to bring out the abstractions in the characters, thus freeing the actors to live their parts with subtler interpretations.

Directed by Henny Willis, the show boasts a long list of principal characters. Nathan Detroit, the operator of the "old established permanent floating crap game in New York," will be played by Howard Hummell; Sky Maxterson, high-roller and romantic lead by Michael Watkins; Adelaide, Nathan's fiancée, by Judi Weinkauf; Sarah Brown, dedicated Salvation Army lass, by Cathryn Dorris; Brother Arvide, Sarah's father, by Stan Boyd; Nicely Nicely Johnson, Benny Southstreet and Rusty Charlie, all Nathan's friends, by Quade Winter, Don Sutton and Jim Roberts; Big Jule, the somewhat villain of the show, by Ed Banker Jr.; Harry the Horse by Ron Hart; Police Lt. Brannigan by Gene Herlocker; and Gen. Matilda Cartwright by Jane Wojcik.

This rather sizeable cast is supported by Scott Barkhurst as musical director, Michael Watkins as choreographer, Elaine Laizure as costumer and Quade Winter as vocal director.

Guys and Dolls will run tonight through Saturday and Feb. 8 through 11. Tickets are \$4 each, available at the VLT box office, 2350 Hilyard St. For more information call 344-7751.

Guys and Dolls opens tonight at Little Theatre



The dolls (above) and the guys (below) — the spectacle of a classic Broadway musical comedy opens tonight at Very Little Theatre (VLT), 24th and Hilyard Street.

Here's The Place for sound music

By CHERYL RUDERT

There's always room for more music in Eugene. However, with the Lane County Fairgrounds, Mac Court and the EMU Ballroom as the only large capacity auditoriums available to attract national touring acts there has ever been a noticeable incongruity between the polish of professional groups' music and the crackling imbalanced sound that results from poor acoustics and over-driven sound systems.

Until Eugene gets its own civic center a number of concessions and experiments have been made with a sort of eco-consciousness in tow — namely, use what one has. Most notable among the experimental stages have been the Pearl Street Station jazz concerts and the classical and jazz concerts at the Willamette Christian Center.

Wednesday, TDA productions,

in conjunction with the owners of The Place and Sound and Lighting, is opening what they tout as "Eugene's new music center." Located downtown at 160 S. Park, The Place promises to offer a little and a lot of what Pearl Street Station used to and the Eugene Hotel still does offer — a small and intimate chairs-and-tables, drinks-and-hors-d'oeuvres setting to hear local and non-local music. With a seating capacity of 350 and a 20 by 24 foot stage, The Place will also include a dance floor for local acts and a custom-designed \$30,000 sound and lighting system that has a potential for making an evening of music there a pure aural delight.

The management of The Place also plans to keep a fully active calendar of local and national groups at low prices. Ranging from jazz to bluegrass to rock, February is going to be a non-stop month that will include Earl Scruggs, Pat Travers, Norton Buffalo and Roger McGuinn and Gene Clark. With plans to average eight to ten national acts a month,

TDA has already announced the engagement of the Lost Gonzo Band, Norman Blake and Dizzy Gillespie for March.

Still in the process of being installed, the sound system will put out more power than needed but has the advantage that it meets the requirements that so many national acts demand. Therefore there will be no need for the acts to bring along their own technicians. But if you're worried about having your olfactory senses drowned in such small confines, never fear! The management fully intends to put the system to minimum use, so that the sound will resemble more an expensive home stereo system than the inside of a machine shop.

The Place will feature Norton Buffalo as its premier national act Feb. 3 and 4. Tickets are \$4.50 and can be bought at the door or at the Sun Shop, Everybody's or Bremen Town. Two shows each night will also feature Wheatfield and Keeter & Allison. Because drinks will be served, IDs are required.

Hear and Now is edited by Cheryl Rudert and Jerril Nilson. All art, poetry and writing contributions are welcome. Additions to Out and About must be submitted by the Friday previous to publication.

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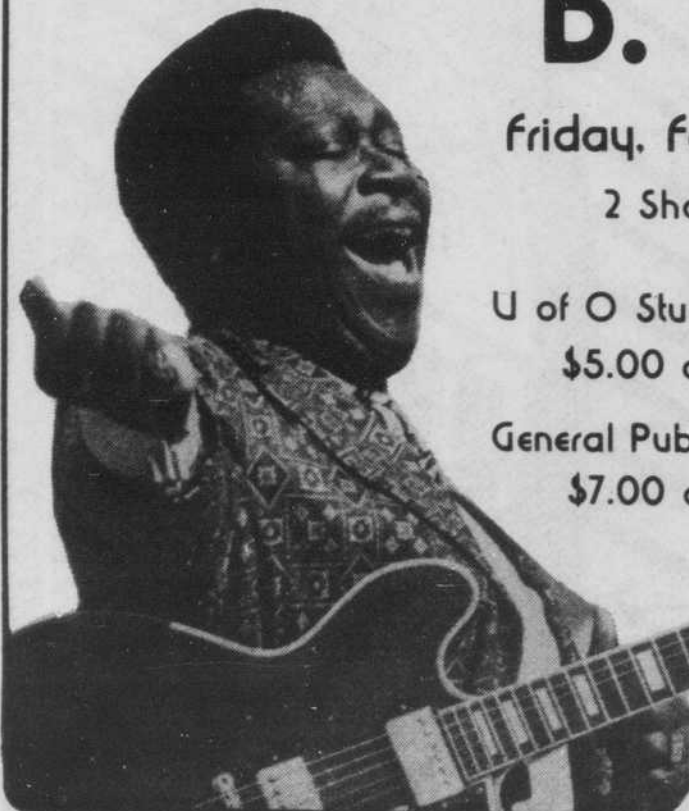
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