

'The Boy Friend'

Musical opens Friday at University

The Roaring Twenties come to life Friday night when the University Theatre presents the musical "The Boy Friend," the last mainstage production of the season.

The musical is set on the French Riviera, where Polly (Lyndra Seely), a millionaire's daughter, is attending the fashionable finishing school run by Madame Dubonnet (Kim Anderson). Polly falls in love with Tony (Todd Hermanson), a delivery boy who turns out to be the son of wealthy Lord Brockhurst (Robert Fraser). To keep Tony's interest, Polly pretends to be a poor working girl. The couple find true happiness, however, when Tony's real parentage is revealed.

After a long-running success in London, "The Boy Friend" was the first starring role for Julie Andrews when it opened on Broadway in 1954. The score includes "I Could Be Happy With You," "It's Never Too Late to Fall in Love," "Perfect Young Ladies," "Won't You Charleston with Me?" and the title song, "The Boy Friend."

Graduate student Barbara Fraser is directing the musical,



Jean Robinson, Brian McCarthy, Melanie Leslie and Greg Rennie star in the University Theatre's production of "The Boy Friend."

assisted by Grant McKernie, producing director. Choreography has been designed by dance professor Janet Descutner. Music professor Stephen Stone is the musical director for the production, and graduate student Charlene Whitney is the vocal director.

The play opens Friday night at 8 p.m. in the Robinson Theatre. Other shows are set for Saturday and May 19-22. The annual

musical has traditionally been one of the most popular productions of the year, and often sells out, so tickets should be reserved early.

Remaining tickets are \$2.75 for University students and senior citizens, \$3.50 for other students and \$4.50 for the general public. For information or reservations, call the University Theatre's box office at 6868-4191 between noon and 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

'It's worth it,' says UT actress

"The Boy Friend" is an ensemble effort, says junior Melanie Leslie. The show's success "depends on group support. It's not the kind of show where one or two people carry the show and everyone else backs them up. Everyone here is equally important."

Maisie, the character Leslie plays in "The Boy Friend," "is a 17-year-old, live-for-today, grab-it-while-you-can sort of person," says Leslie. "Certainly no man is going to get the best of her. She manipulates others, but in a charming way."

Leslie herself radiates charm and vivacity, but she also exhibits a serious quality and a strong sense of purpose.

Leslie was born and raised in Las Vegas where her mother made costumes for several of the big shows that played there. Leslie was frequently in the presence of show business people and producers and was therefore often exposed to the seamier side of that lifestyle as well as the face that was shown to the public.

"It didn't dissuade me from becoming a performer," she says, "but it did make it very clear to me what I would do and would not do. It's important to know what you want so you won't get exploited and used."



Actors Melanie Leslie and Todd Hermanson

Leslie has been dancing since she was six and began singing while in junior high school.

"I always wanted to act," she says with a smile, "but never thought that I could. I was originally a dance major. I took a dance class here with Susan Zadoff. She inspired me and told me I

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