



Photo by John Widder

Linda Chace, Priscilla Lauris and Connie Doolan, left to right, will be performing in "I'm Getting My Act Together" this summer at the University's Robinson Theatre.

Theatre to do three plays

By Sean Axmaker
Of the Emerald

If a lack of cash and a case of summer blues have you down, The University Theatre has the solution to your problem in its summer schedule.

The University Summer Season, or Carnival Theater as it is called, is featuring three plays in repertory for six weeks. The season kicks off with the musical "I'm Getting My Act Together And Taking It On The Road," opening June 5. The following shows are the musical "Side By Side By Sondheim," a showcase of the music of Stephen Sondheim, and the comedy "Mass Appeal."

The Carnival Theater is basically an extension of the University theater department's regular season, with a few important differences. There is more student involvement, according to publicity director Shelby Ferguson. "The students are involved in picking the productions and have a major role in the technical areas, such as set design and costume construction."

Another difference is the inclusion of guest performers. "I'm Getting My Act Together" features Priscilla Lauris, a Eugene favorite and Oregon Shakespearean Festival veteran of two seasons. She portrays Heather, a pop singer trying to make a radical stylistic change in her material.

"Mass Appeal," a two-man comedy-drama, features two guest performers, Tom Lasswell as Father Tim Farley and Dennis Smith as young seminarian Mark Dolson. Lasswell was an original member of the Second City improvisational group and has acted in "The Fantastiks" off-Broadway. Smith is familiar to Eugene crowds as the star of this past season's "Dracula" and a featured performer in "Saint Joan," as well as the

writer of "Excursion Fair," featured in the University's Second Season this year.

"Side by Side by Sondheim" features a totally student cast which performs the music of Stephen Sondheim, composer of such scores as "Gypsy," "Company" and "A Little Night Music." Written around the showcase-musical numbers, this particular production is scored for two grand pianos instead of the standard orchestral arrangement.

"The summer productions are aimed at an adult audience," Ferguson says, "which is not to say that children won't understand these plays. But they are aimed at a more mature level."

There are a number of reasons for this. "The productions are an exercise for the students, and more complicated plays are better suited for instruction," she says. There is also the University audience, to whom the productions are primarily aimed, and finally the predominance of youth- or family-oriented plays around town. "We are just offering another alternative."

The repertory style allows each production to be offered at varying dates throughout the six week period so there is no need to miss a production. And, to sweeten the deal, the price is right: \$3.50 for weeknight performances and \$5.00 for Friday and Saturday performances.

The schedule is as follows:
"I'm Getting My Act Together" — July 5, 6, 7, 25, 26, Aug 3, 4, 10
"Side by Side by Sondheim" — July 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, Aug 2, 11
"Mass Appeal" — July 17, 18, 27, 28, Aug 1, 8, 9

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I'm Getting My Act Together and Taking It On The Road
The critically acclaimed musical starring PRISCILLA LAURIS
July 5, 6, 7, 19, 25, 26; August 3, 4, 10

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| <p>Side by Side by Sondheim <i>A musical revue of Broadway show tunes by the master songwriter, Stephen Sondheim</i> July 12, 13, 14, 20, 21 August 2, 11</p> | <p>Mass Appeal <i>A heartwarming comic-drama starring TOM LASSWELL and DENNIS SMITH</i> July 17, 18, 27, 28 August 1, 8, 9</p> |
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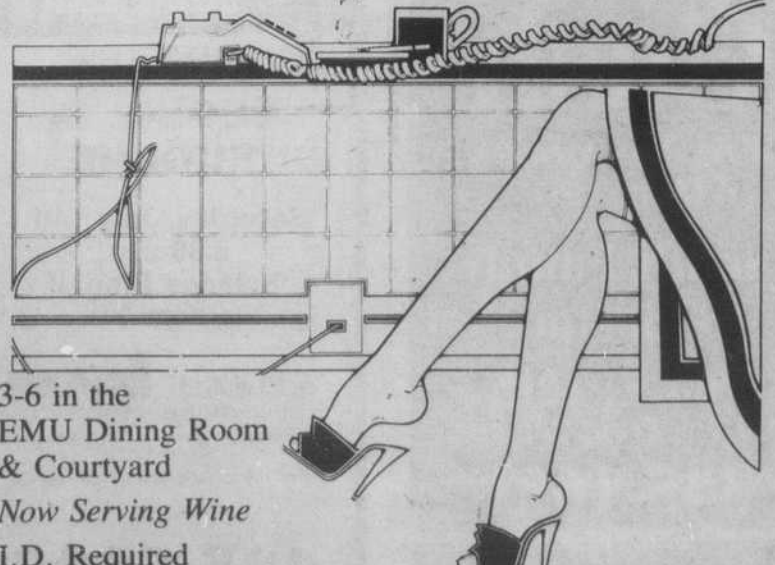
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