

Excellent performances make 'Gypsy' definite hit

Everything's coming up roses at the University Theater's production of the hit musical "Gypsy." In a volley of fast-paced dance numbers, strong musical selections and excellent acting, director Jack Watson has produced a deeply dramatic but hilariously entertaining show.

"Gypsy" is the poignant story of the famous burlesque stripper, Gypsy Rose Lee, and her mother's desperate attempts

Review by
Brett Bigham

at making her daughter a star. Considered one of the finest musicals ever written, "Gypsy" takes its audience from scene to scene with an incredible mixture of emotions and music.

Terra Pressler, as Mama Rose, turns out an incredible performance as she leads the audience through several heartwrenching songs and equally numbing dialogue. Pressler seems to be holding back in the beginning of the show, but as she closes out Act 1 with the powerful "Everything's Coming Up

Roses," we see that she hasn't been holding back, but only saving up. Pressler is equally masterful in the comic elements of the show but reaches her perfection when she belts out "Rose's Turn" at the show's end.

As Gypsy Louise, Kim Anderson turns out an equally polished performance that forces her to go from child to woman through the course of the show. Anderson is truly sensual and provocative as her character blossoms into the most famous stripper of all times, but she is equally believable as the confused girl who never thought she'd be a star. As her sister, Dainty June, Mary Russell also grows before our eyes and gives an enjoyable performance as the spoiled mama's girl.

In what is mostly a woman's show, Jason Buell, as Tulsa, gives a fine performance of "All I Need Is The Girl." But Rick Turnbow's Herbie doesn't fare so well. Turnbow's character seemed to sag during the times he wasn't singing. His duets with Pressler are strong and he is completely enjoyable during "Together Wherever We Go."

The comedy highlight of the

show is during "You Gotta Get A Gimmick" when three wizened strippers teach Gypsy Louise the ins and outs of stripping. As Mazeppa, Trish Will booms on to stage in an explosion of horns and navel and proceeds to bring the house down with her brassy voice and swinging pelvis.

Special merit must go towards Emily Orton and Valerie Herkert who play Baby Louise and Baby June.

Choreographer Janet Descutner has managed to completely fill this show with intricate and enjoyable dance numbers. The children grow up before our eyes in "Military Routine," an incredibly well done and effective number.

Director Jack Watson has created a hit out of "Gypsy." His careful approach to the deep dramatic messages of this play and the soft touches of humor have bonded into a seemingly simple performance of difficult matter.

"Gypsy" continues at Robinson Theater May 28, 29, 30, June 4, 5, and 6 at 8 p.m.. Book by Arthur Laurents, music by Jule Styne and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

Run to help Saferide, Saferun

By Kelvin Wee
Of the Emerald

Project Saferide and Project Saferun both will receive help from the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity Saturday with "A Fun Run For A Safe Ride."

"A Fun Run For A Safe Ride" is a five-kilometer run that will begin at 9 a.m. at Alton Baker Park, according to Michael Farethy, an SAE member and the organizer of the fund-raiser.

SAE began planning the event during winter term. Farethy said he and SAE Vice President Patrick Gemma decided that since men are not allowed to help by driving for Project Saferide, raising money to support the program and other similar programs was the next best alternative.

Project Saferun is a program that loans dogs out to women to either run or walk with, Farethy said.

Shelley Reeher, a former student at the University, started Saferun in June of 1981. "I started with 12 original Dobermans and am now training other dogs for the project. We are non-profit and hope to ex-

pand nationwide soon," said Reeher, who has been featured in Sports Illustrated and The Los Angeles Times.

"They (the dogs) are not meant to be something that's going to eat a person up. The women go through a training session on how to handle the dogs before they are allowed to take them out," Reeher said. "Over the last few years Saferun has had well over 5,000 runs with no incidents of attacks."

"We are raising the money mainly through T-shirt sales," Farethy said. "It costs \$2 to run in the event or \$8 to run with one of our T-shirts. But we have had donations from the public, like Steve Romania. Whatever profits we make here will be split equally and given to these two organizations," he said.

"Our biggest problem was probably participation on the part of women," Farethy said. "We began with the sororities, but first had no response from them; however, we persisted and now have the cooperation of six of the sororities."

This is the fun run's first year, and the organizers are an-

icipating between 100 and 200 participants, Farethy said.

All participants are required to complete a form that may be obtained by calling Project Saferide at 686-3724, Michael Farethy at 344-1987 or Patrick Gemma at 485-9080. Forms will also be accepted at the starting point of the event.

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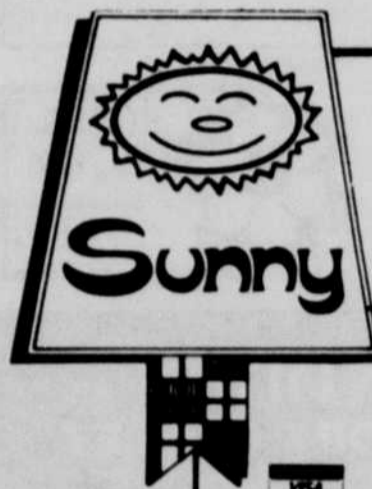
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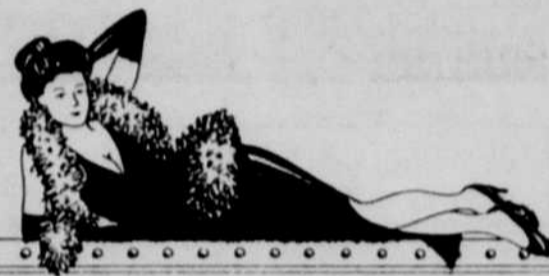
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APPLY AS FOLLOWS: At Douglass Hall in the Walton Residence Hall Complex at the corner of 15th and Agate.

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