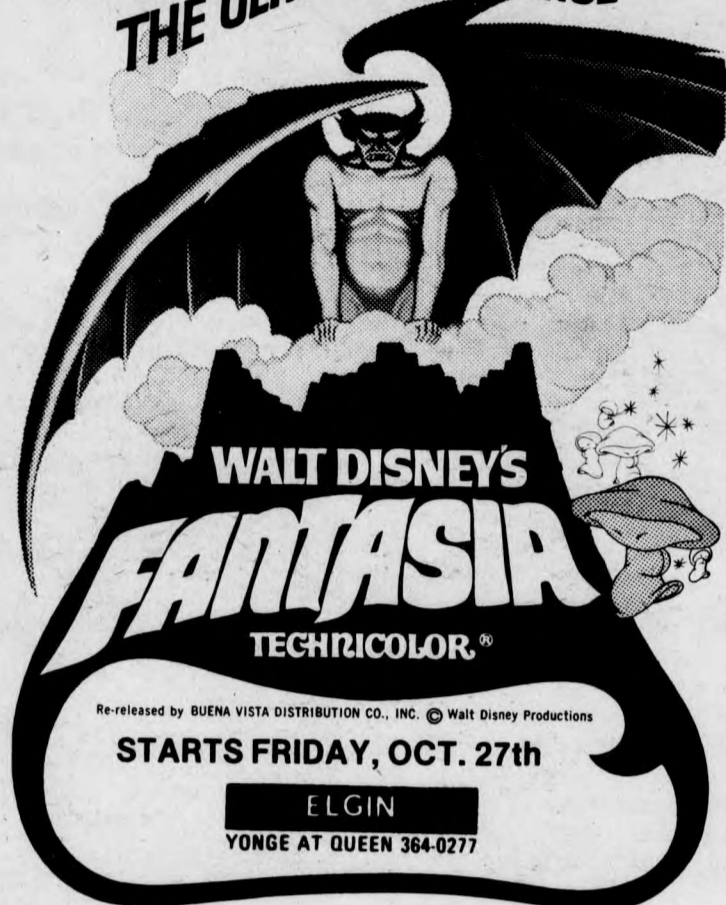


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Five cabaret revues slated

By Laura Brown

For any student who is not acquainted with York's high-energy, informal theatre, watch for the opening of this year's first Cabaret production at the end of November.

Cabaret, a totally student-organized production of vibrant skits, songs, dances and dialogues, is the result of a volunteer cast and crew's ingenuity and hard work. The newly-appointed artistic director, Andy Lewarne, will co-ordinate and guide any willing students through five different Cabaret performances this year.

All performances are created, organized and intensely rehearsed within a two week period. The 40 minute shows are then performed for two consecutive evenings in the McLaughlin dining hall.

Admission is free and the room is licenced. The audience is seated in an intimate arrangement closely surrounding the stage which promotes the direct audience-contact theatre of a cabaret.

Lewarne describes a Cabaret as being predominately fast-paced musicals which create a light and easy-going atmosphere. A message about personal interactions between people is often delivered, but the performances usually end on a positive note.

Auditions for Cabaret are not restricted to theatre students, but are open to everyone.

"There are limitations, of course, because Cabaret is mostly concerned with music," Lewarne said. But as each production also relies heavily on background work, students are encouraged to participate in the writing and organization of Cabaret.

The scripts are never originals, but are made up of shorter and combined versions of other musical pieces. Nonetheless, the finished product is always unique.

All students participating in a Cabaret must work in conjunction with Lewarne who was hired by the theatre council to help co-ordinate the students' shows.

Lewarne is available to go over scripts and help arrange the music for all shows. He is also responsible for holding the auditions and aiding in the directing during rehearsals.

The artistic director has to answer for everything that goes on in Cabaret. "And because I'm responsible for Cabaret, I have to see any show before it goes on and I have the final say", Lewarne will tell all writers and performers who come forward with a show.

"And as artistic director, my main concern is the first show, which I put on", Lewarne said. After that, anyone who has performance ideas or a prepared show, can get in touch with Lewarne and begin two frenzied weeks of preparations.

The brief time allotted for the organization and deliverance of each production generates the energy and persistence with which the cast and crew approach their project. And with the short rehearsal period always in mind, the sets are usually uncomplicated designs. The cast assemble their own costumes which, like the sets, are simple, but always complimentary to the roles.

"The costumes and sets are usually not that important in Cabaret", Lewarne commented.

"Because we're in close contact with the audience, the actors don't depend on props or costumes...the message comes across in song", Lewarne explained.

The affable theatre performances not only provide a night of inspiring entertainment for the audience, but are often beneficial to the performers, especially for students in the theatre faculty.

According to Lewarne, the close contact theatre with the audience calls for quick-moving theatre, "which to a large extent leaves one very much naked on stage", he said.

The intensity of the performances often calls for the switch from straight character to caricature.

Cabaret encourages caricature because it's the easiest way to get the idea of a character across during the limited performance time. "And when you're close to the audience you have to be confident enough to fool them", Lewarne will tell all performers.

Lewarne also insists that the cast and crew take their work very seriously because of the concise time slot for each production's organization, rehearsals and performances.

"The theatre department also takes Cabaret very seriously. A lot of professors urge people to go in a Cabaret because it gives them a chance to use what they learn in classes, as well as learn something new", he added.

"But working in Cabaret is also a lot of fun", Lewarne said. "It's a good way to meet people and share new experiences."

November 27th is the opening night of this year's first Cabaret production. It's entitled *Do You Play Hearts* and is a cabaret on games people play with each other.

Cabaret is a magnificent York tradition which has given a veritable galaxy of stars their start in glamorous show biz.

If you're interested in getting involved with Cabaret this year, contact Andy Lewarne — just drop a letter in the Cabaret letter box in the theatre department...and keep an eye out for the promotion posters about auditions on the theatre call boards in the Fine Arts Lounge.

LAST
DAYTO PAY YOUR FEES
IN ORDER TO REGISTERFor the 78/79 Fall/Winter Session is
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1978*

NOTE: Students will not be allowed to register after this date except on special compassionate grounds or in the case of an unjustifiable delay on the part of some York faculty or administrative office. A written petition and supporting documentary evidence will be required, and the Registrar's decision will be final.

If you have financial problems or questions which prevent you from registering, you may seek counselling at the Office of Student Awards, Room 110A, Steacie Science Bldg., 667-2542/3263.

*If you plan to take only Winter half courses,
the deadline is January 31, 1979.

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