

Mozart's Marriage of Figaro a Success

by Mark Anderson

Mozart's comic opera of the romantic entanglements of eighteenth century Spain is the Opera Workshop of Dalhousie's music department. Instead of Spain, they have chosen to set *The Marriage of Figaro* in World War II England. This was a good choice, since it lets the characters

Let's Dance!

Welcome to a new column on dancing and where to dance!

We are all dancers. We use movement to express ourselves, our hunger, pain, anger, joy and confusion. We understand the meanings of movements long before we understand those of words.

Franklin Stevens

This is a new weekly column intended to provide a short feature on the history of a particular dance, creating awareness of international dance traditions as well as highlight events of Let's Dance! DALHOUSIE.

Let's Dance! DALHOUSIE is a newly formed group to teach dance to students for free. This group has been formed so that through dancing we can experience culture from around the world including Canada. Classes will be taught from a base of International Folk Dancing. Simply put, these are the dances that countries have enjoyed for hundreds of years. They include polka, waltz, as well as jive and tango. Guest workshops will be held to broaden dance experience, eg., a salsa and merengue workshop was held last Friday with a great turnout! We will also be taking advantage of our multicultural dance community. All dancing will be taught from the beginner level. All levels of dancers are encouraged to come so that the dance community of Dalhousie and Halifax can connect with each other and dance!

The column will provide information on all events and dates for guest workshops held by Let's Dance! DALHOUSIE and brief history of the dances to be taught.

The dance community in Halifax is a bustling one. We can all be a part of it, share our youthful energy and increase its size. Dances are held frequently in ballroom dance, Scottish Country, Irish dance and Folk Dance and more. Whatever your mood, there are many opportunities to dance. This column will keep you up to date on where to dance.

I invite everyone to come and dance, have lots of fun, meet new people and get great exercise too.

Let's Dance! DALHOUSIE meets every Thursday in the McInnes room from 12 to 1 pm. (Dances taught at this time unless otherwise specified)

No partners needed. No experience required. FREE!

This week's dance: Learn to tango!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday February 11

Let's Dance! DALHOUSIE hosts: International Developments Week Dance! Dance folk dances from around the world including polka, jive, waltz, tango, sals and merengue! 9pm (lessons included 8 to 9 pm), tickets at Dal SUB enquiry desk or at door. Community Welcome. Great Hall, University Club.

Wear something special! (NOTE: previously scheduled for Friday, Feb 10)

Tuesday Feb 7

Edgett International holds a ballroom dance including part 2 of 3 in Dean McGrail & Investors Group Scholarships.

Scotia Branch Legion, Cunard St., Halifax 8:30-11:00 pm. Tickets \$4.

Thursday Feb 9

Corte Club holds ballroom dancing every Thursday. Tickets \$4 . 8:30 - 11 pm. McInnes Room, Dal SUB.

Contact: Michelle Welton 494-8870 or email: mwelton@is.ca.dal

sing in English. Opera is rather foreign to most of the students I know, so this production is excellent for those not familiar with the medium. Aside from its merits as an opera, this production stands on its own for those who do know the genre. It has excellent moments, both dramatically and musically.

The Marriage of Figaro
Directed by Dr. Gregory
Sirect February 3 and 4
Rebecca Cohn Auditorium

Figaro is a corporal in the British Army, and an aide to Count Almaviva, an aristocrat, and aide-de-camp to Winston Churchill. Figaro is to be married to Susanna, but the lustful count (in the tradition of it being the right of the lord to receive favours from female serfs on the eve of their wedding) wishes to have his way with her.

Figaro, Susanna, and the Countess, (who knows of her husband's plan), plot against the count, and this leads to a grand series of comic

misunderstandings, always featuring the explosion of the count's ferocious temper. On the other side, the Count and Basilio, the unscrupulous Abbe, enlist the aid of Marcellina, an aristocrat who wishes to cancel Figaro's marriage so she can marry him herself. Figaro is held in debt to her, and is unable to pay.

But plot is not the point. The fun of this show is the overdrawn caricatures, the clever methods used in putting everything to song, and the singing itself.

The Count (Jason Parkhill) was extremely entertaining, reminiscent of Bluto from Popeye comics, blundering and fuming about, seeing nothing but his own thwarted desires. Figaro (Scott Rhyno) played the part that joined all the other parts together.

One scene from the show stood out in particular for its comedic merit. Susanna and Marcellina unexpectedly cross paths and snipe at each other in singing asides while smiling cordially across the room.

Musically, the Countess (Jane



Howlett), and the piano accompaniment, by Helen Murray/Deidry Shute, merit special mention.

Overall, *The Marriage of Figaro*

was, and will be an enjoyable experience, a nice change of pace, and a good first look at a medium that most of us know very little about.

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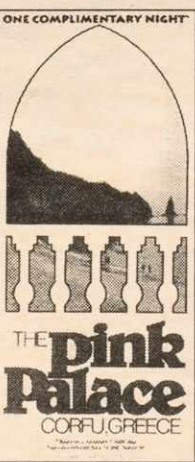


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