

It's Mame

So Varsity Guest Weekend rolls by again, and that means it's time again for the Jubilaires. And this year, the veteran campus musical theatre group has chosen one of the biggest Broadway hits of recent years, "Mame!" as its feature presentation of Varsity Guest Weekend.

The Jubilaires will premiere the show Thursday through Sunday of VGW in the SUB Theatre (at 8:15 every night except Sunday, when the curtain goes up at 7:30), and if you can't catch it this weekend, don't miss it next weekend, Friday or Saturday.

The purpose of VGW is to illustrate to you, the public, the various activities and concerns which occupy the students on this campus. The Jubilaires is the only extra-curricular theatre group at the U of A, and one of the biggest musical groups, second only to the Mixed Chorus. Their annual production for VGW showcases more campus talent in more areas than any other event possibly could. It involves a singing, acting, and dancing cast of 40 people, an orchestra of 25, a total backstage crew of between 60 and 80 people—all pooling their particular talents to the total effect—"Mame!"

So if you're in town or on campus for Varsity Guest Weekend, don't miss the Jubilaires production of "Mame!" Hurry down to their box office in SUB and pick up your tickets right now.

Kerry Hughes leads great cast



It's today . . . and the Jubilaires love it.

For VGW '70, the Jubilaires have got the best of all shows, Gerry Herman's "Mame!", and in the title role, they have one of the most versatile actresses in Edmonton musical theatre, Kerry Hughes.

Originally from Vancouver, Miss Hughes has lived now in Edmonton for four years. In that time she has done eight musicals, six for Civic Musical Theatre and two with the Jubilaires. Her first starring role was as Rosemary Pilkington in Civic's last and most memorable production, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Then, just last fall, she took on one of the most demanding roles in musical theatre, that of Evie-Anya-Ilse-Ginnie in Anthony Newley's "Stop the World—I want to Get Off." The part required to play four different women in four different accents, none of which was her own. Miss Hughes' forte is dance and comic action, and she gets plenty of both in "Mame!"

Starring opposite her as the aging actress Vera Charles, is the veteran Jubilaire, Janey Craig, who did her first Jubilaires show as Daisy Mae in the feature presentation of VGW '66, "Li'l Abner!" Since then, she has appeared in or worked on six more Jubilaires shows, most recently starring as Jane in "Stop the World . . ."

The younger Patrick Dennis is played by 13-year-old Lawrence Day. Lawrence is not only an award-winning singer, but a fine dancer and actor as well. His nanny Gooch is played by another veteran in musical theatre and Jubilaires, Sue Polsky. She has appeared in many shows with Miss Hughes as a member of Civic Musical Theatre, and she brings to the part of Gooch a beautiful voice and comic talent.

As Beauregard Burnside, Richard Davison takes his first role in a musical comedy, but he is no stranger to theatre, having worked often in Children's Theatre and at Walterdale. The supporting cast includes George Belcher, Roger Burrows and Blain Gowing.

All are under the expert direction of John Rivet, a drama teacher and a man well known in Edmonton theatre for his acting and directing talent with Walterdale Playhouse. His most recent work was as director of the 1969 K-Days melodrama "Dead-Eye Dick."

In charge of the large singing and dancing chorus for "Mame!" are veteran Jubilaires Michael Klazek as musical director and Larry Dill and Howie Wayne as choreographers. Mr. Dill choreographed last year's VGW presentation, "Girl Crazy" while Mr. Wayne's last appearance was in the cast of "Stop the World . . ." Mr. Klazek, who also will conduct the largest orchestra ever seen in Edmonton for musical theatre, was musical director for "Stop the World . . ." and has worked on five other Jubilaires shows.

Together, all these people have worked hard to give you one of the most momentous experiences in recent years.

Auntie Mame wows 'em in sub theatre

One of the most lovable, eccentric characters ever to hit the stage—that's Auntie Mame. And this VGW is your chance to see her, in the Edmonton premiere of the Broadway hit musical "Mame!," presented by the Jubilaires every night in SUB.

What's "Mame!" all about? Well, it tells the story of little Patrick Dennis, searching with his nanny, Agnes Gooch, for his only living relative, his Auntie Mame. The time is 1928, prohibition, and the place is New York City.

After wandering lost and desperate for several hours in the big city, Patrick and Agnes finally locate Mame's Beekman Place apartment. And then the fun begins, 'cause they stumble wide-eyed into one of her gigantic bathtub gin bashes. There is Mame, blowing her bugle to raise the roof, and there are all her incredible friends—Vera, the aging musical revue actress; Ralph Devine, who runs a nature (?) school for kids; Lindsay Woolsey, who wants to be serious when all Mame wants is a good time. There's Ito, Mame's crafty Japanese butler, and a Lithuanian Bishop. Mame welcomes Patrick and Agnes into her crowd with open arms, and that is where trouble begins.

Patrick's trustee, an English bore named Babcock, wants Patrick to attend the best boarding school in New York. Mame wants only for her nephew to learn in the school of life, to "Open a New Window" every day. And that is exactly how Patrick grows up.

Mame's life soon begins to complicate even more. The crash comes, the depression is on, and Mame is destitute. She tries to find work, and seems hopelessly inept at all she tries. But she is saved by the ultimate in Southern gentlemen, Mr. Beauregard Jackson Pickett Burnside. Patrick, meanwhile, grows up and falls in love—with a girl that Mame can't stomach. How she tries to make Patrick see the light makes for a riotous last few scenes.

Mame is a hilarious character, and "Mame!" is a hilarious show. Its various little subplots, such as the liberation of Agnes Gooch or the downfall of Ralph Devine, are what makes the story the classic it is. When you add the fantastic musical production numbers which make this show a masterpiece in musical theatre, you have an evening which no one can afford to miss.



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