



'Two Gentlemen of Verona'

*The rocking musical version
of the Shakespearean comedy*

By Regina Andriolo

The play's the thing and the rocking musical version of Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona" will be the highlight of the weekend when the Artists' Series presents the play 8:30 p.m. tomorrow in Rec Hall.

The 1972 Tony Award winner as best musical, the play first was presented in rock version in 1971 at producer Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival in Central Park. It then moved to Broadway's St. James Theatre where it drew capacity audiences for 18 months.

A spoof on one of Shakespeare's lesser known comedies, the adaptation also features music for 31 songs by Galt MacDermot, composer of the earlier rock musical "Hair."

"Two Gentlemen of Verona" employs a multi-leveled stage set and features highly visual costume and choreographic effects. The story line follows one of Shakespeare's common plots — a tale of young couples who through misunderstandings are separated and then reunited.

Guare and Shapiro's book begins fairly close to the original by Shakespeare, establishing Proteus and Valentine as friends and then sending Valentine off to seek his fortune in Milan while Proteus remains in Verona to court Julia. But as the story proceeds, more and more modern humor creeps in.

One of the main changes in the new version is the production's racial mixture; Valentine, Sylvia and her father are black; Proteus and Julia are Puerto Rican, the manservant Launce is Jewish; and Eglamour, Sylvia's fiance, is Chinese. At many times the Shakespearean lines are spoken in these various dialects.

The play's appearance at Penn State is part of a 100-city tour which began at Princeton University less than a month ago. The New York touring company of "Two Gentlemen" is comprised of veteran actors and actresses from a number of Broadway shows. A cast of 13 principals, 16 singer-dancers and six rock musicians will perform Saturday.

Shakespeare's gentlemen are portrayed by Carlos Cestero as Proteus and Howard Porter as Valentine. Porter recently appeared in the Broadway and touring companies of "Purlie," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Two Gentlemen of Verona." Cestero also appeared in the Broadway production of "Two Gentlemen."

The highly provocative women with whom the men get involved are played by Rosa Wortham as Sylvia, daughter of the Duke of Milan; and Louise Shaffer as Julia, the sweetheart whom Proteus leaves behind in Verona but who refuses to stay there.

Tickets for the production are on sale at the HUB booth. Prices are \$2.50 for students and \$3.50 for non-students.



**CORK
CORK
CORK
\$1.00**

1' x 3' x 1/2"
great for bulletin boards
art work and other
creative projects

sofa & chair

127 e. beaver 237-6612

**BASICALLY
BRITCHES**

*the greatest
in fall and
winter fashions*

**COME SEE
FOR YOURSELF**



342 E. COLLEGE AVE. 237-1004

SENIOR PORTRAITS TO BE TAKEN

Place: first floor of HUB

When: Oct. 15 - Oct. 19

Oct. 22 - Oct. 26

***If you have not made your appt.
for your sitting call: 865-2602
between 2nd and 5th period
Monday thru Friday.***

***If you have not received proofs
from your spring portraits call for
an appt. to have them retaken -
no sitting fee necessary.***