

'The Royal Family' kicks off summer of Festival Theatre

By ALAN KOLPON
Collegian Staff Writer

Theater-going promises to be enjoyable this summer as the Pennsylvania Festival Theatre swings into action again.

The Festival Theatre is celebrating its 20th season with the opening of "The Royal Family" on June 23, in the Pavilion Theater on campus.

Festival Theatre began in the 1950s, when its plays ran at the Mateer Playhouse, a renovated barn near Stone Valley. One of the eight plays in the first season was "The Royal Family," shown in August of 1958.

Director Max Fischer arranged for a company of actors, New York professionals and university students, to play the roles throughout the season.

In the following years, the Mateer Playhouse continually filled the house, creating a kind of family relationship between the acting company and the faithful audience. The old barn began to show her age and soon it was evident that it would eventually be impossible to safely present productions there.

Plans were made to move to the Pavilion Theater, itself once a cattle judging arena. The 1962 summer season was the last to be performed in the old Mateer Playhouse. Its last play of the season, "Blood, Sweat and Stanley Poole," was held over an extra week. Since then, the productions have been held on the University Park campus.

Now, in 1977, the Pennsylvania Festival Theatre celebrates its 20th season with the following productions:

"The Royal Family," originally produced on Broadway in 1927 depicts the domestic intimacies of a family of brilliant actors. The understanding, gentle theme of the story and witty, satiric dialogue have maintained their vigor and stature through the years.

The cast for "The Royal Family" includes Jonathan Frid, best remembered for his role as the vampire Barnabas on the horror soap opera "Dark Shadows," and Lydia Bruce of "The Doctors" series, who is also a veteran

from the Mateer Playhouse days. It will run from June 23rd to July 9th.

"A Little Night Music" runs at the Playhouse Theater July 7th-10th, the 12th-17th, and the 19th-23rd, with a matinee on July 16th.

The play involves a perpetual sunset which illuminates the follies of love on a Swedish country estate. Aristocracy and commoners make this tender story one of the American theater's most successful musicals. It features a beautiful score by Stephen Sondheim.

On July 21st, "The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia" will open at the Pavilion Theater. This will run from the 21st-24th, 26th-31st and August 2nd-6th, with a matinee on August 6th. "The Last Meeting" is a very funny play set in the town of Bradleyville, Texas concerning an organization which once had 2,000 members and now has seven. The West Texas dialects are superbly manipulated by Preston Jones, who has been hailed as one of America's finest regional playwrights.

The last production of the season will be a musical revue, "Gershwin Revisited." The greatest songs of composer and lyricist George Gershwin were selected to create this dynamic and moving revue.

"Gershwin Revisited" is truly a tribute to the musical genius and magic of the acclaimed Gershwin sound. The production opens at the Playhouse on July 29th and continues through the 31st and August 2nd-6th, with a matinee on August 6th.

The box office for the Festival Theatre is now open daily from 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. The box office telephone number is 865-1884. Telephone reservations are accepted for all performances except student previews.

All tickets reserved by telephone must be picked up or paid for 48 hours in advance of the performance. Tickets not picked up by that time will go on general sale. Special purchase plans at discounted rates may be arranged by calling the Festival Theatre box office.

the daily Collegian arts

Cursed with hackneyed plot, acting

Sci-fi, AntiChrist don't mix in 'Demon'

By TOM MARCINKO
Collegian Staff Writer

The ad for "Demon" promises "scenes of violence and intense horror." Fifty-fifty isn't bad for a dumb horror movie that ends with a pitch for the ancient astronaut cult.

The film opens with a young

man on top of a water tower taking pot shots at pedestrians. Policeman Peter Nicholas (Tony LoBianco) climbs to the tower and strikes up a conversation with him. "Where did you go to school, Harold?" he asks, and later, "A lot of people would like to know why you did this."

You mad at somebody?" Harold replies that God told him to do it. Exit Harold from ten stories up.

This happens a few more times, but when a cop goes crazy at the St. Patrick's Day parade, Nicholas decides it's the last straw. The trouble is, as soon as the murderers confess who gave them the idea, they die.

From then on Nicholas gets no rest. His superiors decide he's asking too many questions and he's suspended from the force. Does that stop him from digging at the truth?

No, but he should have known when to give up. While tracking down the AntiChrist's virgin mother he gets stabbed on a staircase in

a scene ripped right out of "Psycho."

While tracking down his own mother, Nicholas hears her tell a strange story. The rest of us don't get off the hook so easily. We have to watch a flashback of Sylvia Sydney getting raped by a spaceship. (The special effects are awful.)

tielimax that would be frustrating if anybody cared. LoBianco's marital problems are supposed to give this silliness a bit of human interest. As his wife and mistress, Sandy Dennis and Deborah Raffin turn in soap-operaish performances.

LoBianco himself stumbles through the picture looking slightly dazed. His studied grimness probably stems from a struggle to keep a straight face.

Save your money. This will be on the late show before you know it, back-to-back with comparable classics like "Beast from 20,000 Fathoms" or "Zombies of the Stratosphere." Even as "Exorcist" ripoffs go, this is strictly bottom-drawer.

movie review

As far as can be made out from writer-director Larry Cohen's murky screenplay, Nicholas is a botched experiment conducted by creatures from another planet.

"Demon" ends in an an-

Truth about Klaatu now known, honest

Now it can be told. Contrary to rumor, the rock band Klaatu is not John, Paul, George and Ringo. Klaatu is really Chip, Cary, David and Dino.

According to United Press International, the man who did the detective work found this simply by digging around the Copyright Office in the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. Dwight Douglas, station manager of WWDC, found over 50 references to Klaatu's music.

The law requires that all names and pseudonyms be listed. The four members of Klaatu are unknown Canadian session musicians. Their names are John Woloschuk (also known as Chip Dale), Cary Draper, David Long and Dino Tome.

The Klaatu-Beatles rumors were sparked because the members were not identified.

Capitol was the Beatles' former label, and some listeners thought the album sounded like the Beatles.

Even Capitol Records denied knowing who was in the band. Sales of the album began to pick up rapidly.

"What prompted me to do it," Davis told UPI, "was that the big Top 40 stations were playing this record and passing along the rumor — and kids were buying it under the impression that these guys were really the Beatles. And that just wasn't right."

Now we know. But does anybody out there really know why Paul McCartney is barefoot on the cover of "Abbey Road," or what John Lennon meant when he sang, "now here's another clue for you all — the walrus was Paul"?

— Tom Marcinko

Local films offer chills, thrills

Off Campus

"House of Wax" — The classic 1953 horror film returns, in 3-D splendor. Vincent Price stars in one of his best roles. Charles Bronson, then known as Charles Buchinsky, appears in a supporting role. Cinema One

Brando stars. The Movies (Saturday afternoon only)

"Marathon Man" — Rousing thriller about a New York City graduate student (Dustin Hoffman) who gets involved in a web of dirty doings revolving around a sadistic ex-Nazi (Laurence Olivier). Lots of action and bloodshed. Temple Drive In

"Rocky" — This year's big Oscar winner. Compassionate little drama about a young Philadelphia boxer (Sylvester Stallone). The Movies

"Slap Shot" — Paul Newman stars in this salty film about a hockey team. Garden

On Campus

"Bananas" — Woody Allen, crazy as ever, gets involved with a South American revolution. Louise "Mary Hartman" Lasser co-stars. 121 Sparks

"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" — The memorable comedy-western with the popular pair of Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Findlay Rec Room

— Alan Kolpon

QUIT SMOKING

Program

Information Meeting:
Monday, June 13
7:30 p.m.
121 Noll Lab

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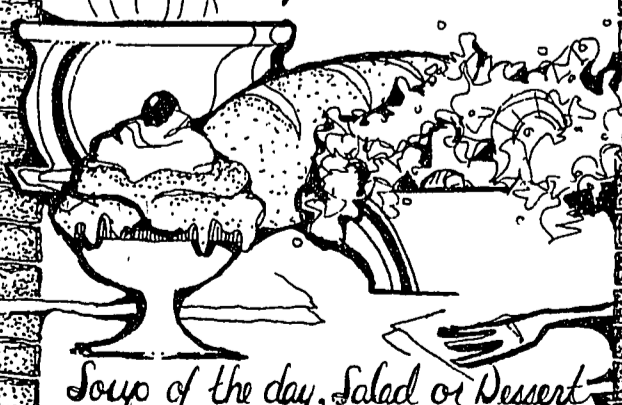
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