

arts

"Pictures" production no big struggle for director

By HEIDI BEELER
Collegian Staff Writer

Neil Simon. For audiences, the name-means a lot of fun. For box offices, many sales. And for the director, you may think an abundance of work.

But for Robert E. Leonard, directing the Pennsylvania Festival Theatre's production of "I Ought To Be In Pictures" has been no such struggle.

"It's been almost an effortless chore on my part to direct this show," Leonard said. "The actors do so much of the work themselves that I am put in the very fortunate position of just having to sit back and select which choice is the funniest. And if something's not funny or doesn't seem to be working, we seem to have a way of all spontaneously agreeing about that at the same time."

The production, which opens tonight at the Pavilion Theater, has only three cast members, professional actors Tom Markus and Jane Moore, and student actress Jane E. Beckhard.

"I think we really all hit it off from the start," said Beckhard, who plays Libby. "It was our second day of rehearsal, and we had a company picnic, and we were just playing and having fun together. And people were saying, 'When did you people meet each other? Yesterday?' It helps us on the stage."

Although Beckhard has performed with professional actors in the URTC production of "Tartuffe," she said the immediate click between herself, Moore and Markus was important for her.

"With 'Tartuffe,' I knew that there were going to be a couple of equity actors, but I also knew that there were students in it. This was



Libby (right), played by Jane E. Beckhard, has no easy answers for Stelby (Jane Moore) on how to reform her father in the Festival Theatre's production of Neil Simon's "I Ought To Be In Pictures."

a little frightening at first. I thought I was going to be kind of at one end of the room, and them at the other."

While "Pictures" has its share of Simon-esque jokes, including the California water you can eat and a tree in the back that grows pits

without fruit, Leonard pointed out that the play has its serious side, also.

"I think this play is a major departure from Neil Simon," Leonard said. "I think he invested a lot of his own emotionalism into it, because it's a very sentimental play. He de-emphasizes the one-line wise-cracks in favor of developing some dimensional human relationships."

The movie version of "Pictures" appeared in the theaters little more than a year ago. Home Box Office ran it within the last few months. It may seem risky to produce the play again so soon.

"The fact is the play is in a constant state of development," Leonard said. "While there will be certain things that are constant every night, there is that spontaneity of the first time, as opposed to film which has been captured forever on celluloid."

The production runs through July 3 with performances at 8:00 pm every evening but Mondays.

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Hot summer is expected for music industry

By RON YEANY
Collegian Staff Writer

(Note: This is the first in a two part series)

This summer should prove to be hotter than ever on the record charts as several big name acts plan to release albums between now and Labor Day, typically a period of hot products and high sales.

Elton John, The Kinks, Rod Stewart, Little River Band, and A Flock of Seagulls have been big releases in the past

couple of weeks, and this week saw the release of new material by Crosby, Stills, and Nash; Peter Gabriel; Ricki Lee Jones; Loverboy; Stevie Nicks; and The Police.

Elton John's *Too Low For Zero*, which contains the hit single "I'm Still Standing," has reunited John with long-time collaborator Bernie Taupin. *Too Low For Zero* marks Elton John's return to fine form, and is undoubtedly his best album since *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road*.

The Kinks' offer strong rock with *State of Confusion*,

which includes the "it doesn't sound like the Kinks" hit single "Come Dancing." Rod Stewart's first studio album in well over a year is titled *Body Wishes*. "Baby Jane," one of Stewart's freshest new songs in years, is included here.

Little River Band has a new lead vocalist on The Net, but the plash harmonies are still the LRB trademark here, exemplified on the Top 40 hit "We Two." Also, the latest offering from A Flock of Seagulls titled *Listen* which contains the hit single "Wishing (If I Had A Photograph Of

You)" has recently bounded onto the charts.

New albums out this week include *Attila*, a live single-disk collection from Crosby, Stills, and Nash, a follow-up to last summer's excellent *Daylight Again*. A live 10-inch disk for Ricki Lee Jones called *Girl At Her Volcano*, is a collection of cover versions that Jones enjoys doing in concert.

Loverboy will be trying for its third consecutive platinum album with *Keep It Up*. Loverboy's recent album contains the fast-breaking single "Hot Girls In Love."

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