

Carnival! - Endicott College's Spring Musical Theater Production

Endicott College Performing Arts Department and Drama Club are proud to present *Carnival!* by Bob Merrill. *Carnival!* works on two levels to appeal to children and adults. With puppets, magic tricks and catchy songs, children will certainly enjoy the performance, but adults will relate to the disenfranchised characters searching for a place to belong, and finding that love is the only true "home." Performances will be held on Thursday, April 8, Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10 at 8 p.m., and a Saturday, April 10 matinee at 2 p.m. is perfect for younger audiences at the Rose Performance Hall, Center for the Arts, Endicott College, 376 Hale St. in Beverly. Cost is \$15 for General Admission, \$10 for students and seniors, \$5 for Endicott College ID Holders.

This charming musical theater show won Tony Awards in 1961 when it burst on the Broadway scene with great numbers like "Grand Imperial Cirque de Paris," "Her Face" and "Always You." Set at a carnival in the late 1930's, characters like Marco the Magnificent and Rosalie, his alluring assistant, bring magic and mystery to audiences throughout Europe. "Love Makes the World Go Round," sings the young, orphaned Lily, and as she learns to fall in love with Paul, the disabled war-veteran who lost his dancing career and now reluctantly runs the puppet show, audiences will join in finding love in the most unlikely of circumstances.

"This is a musical theater buff's show," said Toby Schine of Boston Children's Theatre and professor at Endicott College. "While it is less known, it is one of the most loved by those who know it."

Students in the show from Endicott College have grown to love the message and deeper themes.

"It's like everyone feels desperate for something they can't have," said Mike Macisso, a junior from Portland, Maine, who plays two leading parts in the show,

including Jacquot and the puppet "Marguerite the Vain." "Everyone is searching for something. 'Lili' wants a home, 'Jacquot' needs the old circus magic, 'Paul' wants to find a reason to live after losing his dance career, 'Marco' needs adoration, but really love. They all need love."

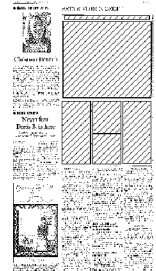
"But the finding of love and the puppets make it beautiful and keep it from feeling too sad," said Melissa Williams, who is a freshman from Lynnfield, and a juggler and dancer in the show.

There are about 50 students, staff and faculty involved in the production, which is directed by Becca Kenneally of Marblehead, coordinator of performing arts at Endicott College. Many of the show's leads are local as well, with Susan Lunt of Beverly as "Lili," Jesse Castleman of Hamilton as "Paul" and Steven Atwater of Manchester-by-the-Sea as "Marco the Magnificent." Other production staff includes production manager Heather Tobin of Salem, assistant musical director Joe Stroup of Beverly, and choreographer Nicole Sao Pedro of Revere.

With its beautiful songs, haunting themes and whimsical effects, *Carnival!* is sure to stay with the cast and audiences a long time.

"I still sing all the songs and remember all the lines," said Jessica Crystal, a Salem State professor who performed in the show in her teens. "It will always be my favorite."

Tickets can be purchased online at endicott.edu/centerforthearts or by calling the Box Office at 978-998-7700. For more information on the event or the Center for the Arts, contact Becca Kenneally, performing arts coordinator, at rkenneal@endicott.edu or 978-232-2397; or you can visit the Endicott College Center for the Arts Web page: endicott.edu/centerforthearts.





'Paul,' played by Jesse Castleman of Hamilton, with puppets 'Carrot Top' and 'Marguerite the Vain.'

COURTESY PHOTO