

Globe's backstage 'Okies' make lots of noise

Herald Special
And "Away We Go" - or should one say - **OKLAHOMA!** Did you know that originally the musical by Richard Rodgers was first called "Green Grow the Lilacs" then changed to "Away We Go" in Boston, and on to New York with "Oklahoma". Just a little history about how it got its name.

Now let's take a walk "behind the scenes" at what makes a successful musical (apart from directors-costumes-props and people). The sets. For instance: there are two 35-foot by 12-foot backdrops. Can you imagine painting these scenes with precision? One cannot waste 70 feet of canvas. Twelve other sets, each 12 feet high by four feet wide, will be used around the wings of the backdrops.

Backstage, there are different crews of dedicated Globe workers getting set for the Oklahoma show which opens in February. Linda Roe is the show's co-producer (Enid Williams-Nicholas is executive producer) and is specifically

ally responsible for backstage and props arrangements. She has help from Linda McConaghy.

NAIL BOYS
Keith Weistead is the props director and Jack Ferguson heads the construction crew, the hammer and nail boys moving ideas from paper into actual wooden sets.

There are a number of young apprentices backstage learning about what goes into a major musical production. They are Karen Taylor-Harrison (props); Julie Nipper (working with her mother, Joan, also on props); Janice Murray (painting) and Darrel Johnson (set building).

Others heavily involved with the set are Hazel Gorin, Bob and Audrey Houston, Phyllis Mercer and Mary Anne McGregor - both newcomers to Globe sets, Gerry Andrew on construction, Harry Haylock and Marg Swain.

Because of the amount of traffic each set is expected to handle during the show's run, they have to be especially sturdy, yet

lightweight and movable. The sets, Laurie's house and the Smokehouse are constructed so that they sit on a box-like cart which moves about on special casters.

RE-USE CARTS
While considerably costly to build themselves, the carts can be re-used over and over again and will become part of Globe's inventory of equipment for future productions.

Mr. Andrew is a newcomer to Globe, having moved to Georgetown last year. But he's had extensive set-building experience with the Pickering-West Hill Musical Theatre, a group which has won several awards in the province for its amateur productions. Mr. Andrew will also appear on stage in the chorus for Oklahoma and is described by his fellow stage workers as "invaluable" to the current production.

Another construction newcomer is Mr. Haylock. He's worked with Georgetown Little Theatre for 14 years and directed GLT productions of "Barefoot in the Park" and "Brush with a Body". Construction foreman Jack Ferguson

is no stranger to the stage, behind the scenes or on the proscenium itself. Last year he played the slippery gangster Moonface Martin aboard Globe's "Anything Goes".

Local residents have generously donated props for the Oklahoma production, adding authenticity. Main Street's Allison family has loaned such necessary items as a butter churn, an oxen yoke and even a buffalo robe; Dave Shrubsole has offered to tape the production on video and is teaching one of the Oklahoma characters how to use a lariat (lasso). And Toronto's Jack Pemberton has contributed a surrey complete with fringe on top.

The audience will no doubt be awed by the panoramic backdrops which have been painted by Mrs. Roe and a small crew over the last three months. They capture the alluring, lonely expanses of Oklahoma plains and their gold and brown shades against blue skies make for a very bright stage.

Remember to get your tickets soon. Call 877-6441 for details.



(Herald photos by Ani Pederias)

SOLSTICE TO SHINE IN OTTAWA

You need a pretty big backyard to hang a bronze sculpture that weighs 3,500 pounds and is 14 feet across. Georgetown Artcast owner Eric Knoespel told The Herald this two-sided sculpture called Solstice will be hanging eight feet up in the air on the estate of an Ottawa businessman and art collector. Designed by sculptor Almuth Lutkenhaus, formerly of Oakville, the round-faced sun sculpture was hanging with chains from the ceiling beams, ready for shipping. Mr. Knoespel said it was the first time a bronze casting of such magnitude had been done in Canada, and a first for his bronze casting company as well. He said the work was cast in sections. The face itself is ten pieces

put together and the rays were each done separately. It took seven weeks to assemble and finish the smiling sun which was begun in May. The one-of-a-kind sculpture has a textured finish on one side and a 24-carat gold plated finish on the other. Mr. Knoespel said the sculpture, valued at over \$50,000, has a ten-year guarantee that it will withstand the ravages of rain and snow. Shipping the unique sculpture posed a weighty problem because of its size. It was wrapped in plastic and foam for the six hour trip to Ottawa yesterday (Tuesday). Putting on the finishing touches was Gayle Skalin while boss Knoespel gave her last minute instructions.



Jean Murray and her daughter Janice (rear) were among members of Globe Productions' backstage crew taking part in a special construction blitz over the weekend. Globe is preparing its Oklahoma production for a February debut and thanks to a crew of dedicated helpers, many of whom will be appearing onstage as well, things are coming together smoothly and on schedule.

Pin-ups sought

Got some old latex paint in the basement you want to get rid of? Oklahoma's production personnel can use it and just about any color will do. While you're poking around, keep in mind that one scene could use an old 'girlie' calendar, circa 1900-1910. If you can contribute any of these items, call Linda Roe at 877-2824.

HALTON HILLS ARTS COUNCIL

Relax!

The next person who smiles sweetly and says, "Oh I'm all finished my Christmas shopping," will receive from me a reply not at all in keeping with the theme of Peace on Earth.

Needless to say, I am not finished. It's panic time again. Every year about this time, I suddenly realize that I won't make it. Nothing is baked, no cards are sent, the few presents I've bought are all wrong. There will be no Christmas at our house.

Guess what: there always is one and everything that has to be done somehow gets done. I expect this year will be no different.

So if you are at the point of moaning softly, "I'll never make it," relax. You'll get everything done



and still have time to enjoy some of the special delights of the holiday season.

Among those delights is the Georgetown Little Theatre and Peel Panto Players production of "Hickory Dickory Dock", a Christmas, children's presentation. It will be presented at the John Elliott Theatre Dec. 10 to 12. Call 877-3700 for ticket information.

Another Christmas treat for the children is the Dec. 22 production of "Curious George" featuring members of the Erewan Theatre. Tickets are \$1.50 for more information call 877-2681.

Something for the grown-ups, but still in the spirit of the season, is presented tonight at Oxbow Books on Main Street. Nornic Studio Productions has prepared a program of readings entitled "The Warmth of Christmas." That's tonight (Wednesday) at 7:30.

If after partaking of these holiday happenings, you still want more: Peter Pan flies again at the O'Keefe Centre, after which "The Nutcracker" makes its annual appearance. Meanwhile at the Royal Alex, Karen Kain graces the stage in "Aladdin."

Obviously there is no shortage of things to do, which tie in with the holiday season. Don't let yourself become so involved with the rush and bustle that you have no time left to enjoy.

'A Time for Joy'

It's a one-night affair. The Cantante Singers will be presenting their annual Christmas concert Dec. 17 in the John Elliott Theatre. "A Time for Joy" starts at 8 p.m. and tickets can be bought at Col-Craft or the theatre box office from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday to Friday. Avoid disappointment and get your tickets early.

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