Parnassus Productions brings bittersweet comedy ‘Educating Rita’ to Union stage

By Stephanie Lim
Features Editor

The Union Theatre Department brings Parnassus Productions’ “Educating Rita,” a British comedy, to the W. D. Powell Theatre on Sept. 25. The production, written by Willy Russell, features former Royal Shakespeare Company member Roy Henderson in the lead role and his wife Jeannette as “Rita.”

“Educating Rita” tells the story of a literature professor at a British university who is involved in a continuing education program. He sets his sights on helping a lower-class hairdresser, Rita, whose desire is to improve herself through education, said Union Theatre Director David Burke. The play recounts her struggle to grow and learn through the program, despite opposition from friends and family.

“It’s a bittersweet comedy,” Burke said. “I’m really excited about (the actors) coming. This production has tremendous redeeming value, especially in a university like ours. We cherish education, individuality, expression, growth and redemption, and that is basically what happens in “Educating Rita.” It’s symbolic,” he continued.

Henderson, a 43-year stage and film veteran, will also lead a workshop from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sept. 25. The seminar will be held in the Chapel. All tickets are $2.

Helen Keller story to be brought to life in ‘The Miracle Worker’

By Sarah Padelford
Staff Writer

The Union University theater department is on its way to a successful season with its upcoming play, “The Miracle Worker.”

The show was cast Sept. 9 and includes Jeremy Young as the Doctor, Melinda Wiens as Kate Keller, Jonathan Hickey as Captain Keller, Leah Young as Aunt Ev, Adam Husty as James, James Nolen as Mr. Anagnus and Sarah Myers as Viney.

The production stars Mary Catherine Bond as Annie Sullivan and Lauren Pritchard as Helen Keller.

“The cast is a good size and will help Union involve the community as well as making the show a good learning experience for the students,” said Wayne Johnson, Union’s new theatre director.

Johnson said the play was a good show with several dramatic elements and interesting twists.

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Greeks ‘rush’ into new year with gusto

- Union’s fraternities and sororities prepare their leaders of tomorrow

By Amy Balthrop
Staff Writer


“Rush is the time when the three fraternities and sororities on Union’s campus begin to choose the young men and women who will represent them for the next four years.

“Rush is a crucial time for us because it determines our chapter’s future. When we select girls, we are considering where they will take us four years from now,” said Jane Rice of Chi Omega.

Throughout one week of rush, held Sept. 8-12, female rushees attended parties hosted by the different sororities. As the week progressed, the girls decided which sorority to join as they accepted or declined the invitations.

Fraternity rush started on Sept. 12 with the Interfraternity Council party. The individual fraternities had open parties on Sept. 15, 16, and 18. Preference parties are Sept. 22-25, and Bid Day is Sept. 26.

One sorority member described the difficulties of rush, especially the time constraints and strict rules that members and rushees must follow.

“The hardest part (of rush) is getting to know everybody with the silence rule. It’s also hard for them to get to know us in a week’s time,” said Heather Abraham of Zeta Tau Alpha.

One concern of many students is that the Greek system causes separation among various student groups; however, many students believe the opposite.

“Since I came here, the relations among the sororities have improved. My Chi O and Zeta friends are as dear to me as my own sisters,” said Megan Shagena of Kappa Delta.

The rushees agree that sisterhood is one of the most important reasons for selecting a sorority.

“My best friends are in sororities. I think that it would be great to have an even deeper bond. I’ve never had a sister,” said Suzanne Frost, a junior.

“A sorority is not only a place to make lasting friendships, but you can also get involved in the community,” added Meg Griffin, a sophomore.

In addition to the emphasis of sisterhood, the sororities offer a variety of services to the community. Kappa Delta helps abused children. Zeta Tau Alpha strives to create awareness of breast cancer. Chi Omega wants to better the community by fighting illiteracy.

The fraternities are trying to put past differences behind them as they look toward a brighter future.

“It seems that the leaders are of one mind that they want to help the guys find their places. Unfortunately, you can’t eliminate the competition, but I think it will be better,” said Fred Shackelford, rush chairman of Lambda Chi Alpha.

As a whole, rush can be a wonderful experience if each rushee keeps an open mind. The focus of rush this year is to inform rather than to persuade.

“Many of the guys rushing have been called into the ministry, which is great. Leaders are appearing that I feel will hold leadership roles in their fraternities and on this campus. Overall, they are a very responsible group of guys,” said Derek Westmoreland, chaplain of Alpha Tau Omega.

A blast from the past:
Old campus tradition carried on at Lexington Inn

By Andrew Long
Staff Writer

The Lexington Inn, named for the legendary campus gathering place for students and faculty alike, since the early 1940s, is open for current Union students.

Guy Carroll founded the small restaurant on Lexington Avenue in Jackson and later sold it to Mike and Pat Holmes in 1949. Its location across the street from the old campus soon earned it the reputation of “the place to be.”

Assistant vice president and director of financial aid Don Morris recalls eating most of his meals there.

“Mike and Pat made you feel at home,” Morris said. “If you didn’t have money to pay for your meal, Mike wrote down the total for each meal and let you pay at the end of the month.”

Elise Smith remembers the Lexington Inn as “the only restaurant close to campus.” One of the most popular places in the restaurant was the “sinner’s table,” she recalled.

A long table that seated eight, the sinners’ table played host to countless conversations. The most important aspect of the table was the confidentiality of everything said there, Smith said.

Mike and Pat Holmes faithfully served Union students until their retirement in 1972, when the Lexington Inn was sold to H.C. and Mary Jo Harris, parents of Carolyn Replogle, who works in the Business office.

Replogle worked for her parents as a waitress until 1976, when the Harrises sold the business to Alice Casey following Union’s 1975 campus move.

Once again the Lexington Inn is meeting the needs of Union students. Formerly known as the snack bar, the newly renovated cafe serves as a delicious and inexpensive alternative to the cafeteria.

The Lexington Inn can credit its new life to Dr. Charles Fowler, who saw a need for students to have both a late-night eating and study spot.

Expressing the need for renovation to the Board of Trustees, Fowler received their appointment to head up the project.

While there are no other renovations planned for the future, Fowler plans to top off the undertaking by adding decorations and memorabilia from the old campus to the walls of the new Lexington Inn.

The Lexington Inn opens at 7 a.m. and closes 15 minutes before curfew.

Inspirations ...
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