

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Liza Minnelli, New Husband to Adopt

NDON (AP) — Liza Minnelli and her husband David Gest are wasting no time in starting a family. The couple is marrying on Saturday, they are already planning to adopt four children, a British newspaper reported Monday. Minnelli, 56, and Gest, 48, married in a celebrity-filled ceremony at New York's Marble Collegiate Church. The ceremony was Minnelli's fourth and Gest's first. The *Daily Express* newspaper quoted the couple as saying they were going to adopt four children "of all races." Minnelli is going to be the best mother in the world," Gest was quoted as saying. "She has the greatest heart of anybody I've ever met."

Michael Berg reworks classic E.T.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director Steven Spielberg gave *E.T.*, the spindly alien of *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, a lift for the movie's 20th anniversary. Spielberg had more than 140 shots reworked and, in some cases, filmed in for the updated version of his grossing classic, set to premiere nationwide Friday. Spielberg had more than 140 shots reworked and, in some cases, filmed in for the updated version of his grossing classic, set to premiere nationwide Friday. Spielberg had more than 140 shots reworked and, in some cases, filmed in for the updated version of his grossing classic, set to premiere nationwide Friday.

Porgy and Bess

OPAS brings the famous folk opera to Texas A&M

By Kelcey Rieger
THE BATTALION

An opera at Texas A&M is a rare event, but the arrival of George and Ira Gershwin's American opera, *Porgy and Bess*, will change that.

"When we found out a touring theatrical company was performing *Porgy and Bess*, the Memorial Student Center Opera and Performing Arts Society (OPAS) jumped at the chance of having this very distinctive opera perform here at Texas A&M," said Chris Duke, chairman of the program advisory board for MSC OPAS and a senior political science major.

Porgy and Bess, will be performed at A&M's Rudder Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Porgy and Bess is the most famous and controversial American opera of the 20th century. The story entwines pride, prejudice, pathos and passion through a jazz and blues influenced score. *Porgy and Bess* was originally billed as a "folk opera," a folktale in which people would naturally sing folk music.

Craig Boleman, a spokesperson for *Porgy and Bess*, said the show is a wonderful theatrical production, and, although written in the early 1930s by

the Gershwin brothers, the opera is full of life and energy more than 65 years after its premiere at New York City's Alvin Theatre.

"This year we are celebrating 100 years of Gershwin," Boleman said. "Which makes this tour of *Porgy and Bess* unique. It is a spectacular show and a distinct part of American history."

Based on a novel by Dubose Heyward, the opera is set in Charleston, S.C., in 1920. *Porgy and Bess* is about the love of the crippled Porgy for the beautiful Bess. Porgy witnesses a murder and later gives shelter to Bess, who is the murderer's love interest. The story has many twists and turns as *Porgy and Bess* develop feelings for one another, but their happiness is short-lived when the murderer, Crown, returns for Bess.

A very distinct characteristic of *Porgy and Bess* is the use of language and music of the Gullahs. The Gullah language is a Creole blend of English and African languages born on Africa's slave coast and developed in the slave communities of the Coastal South such as South Carolina and Georgia.

The cast of *Porgy and Bess* con-



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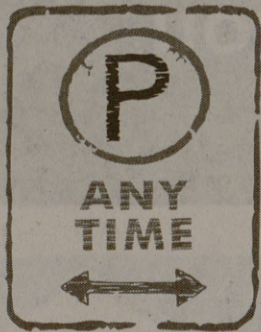
sists of many talented actors and actresses who have been on the *Porgy and Bess* stage many times before. Elizabeth Graham (Bess) is a distinguished opera singer and teacher who has performed extensively throughout the United States in opera's such

as *Madame Butterfly* and Mozart's *Così fan Tutte*. Brian R. Gibson (Porgy) has toured throughout the world performing with groups such as the Metropolitan Opera and has given command performances for the royal houses of Sweden and Spain.

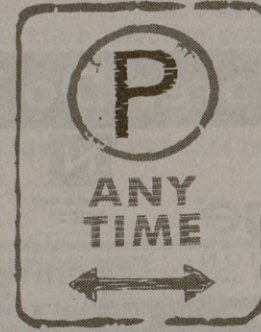
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