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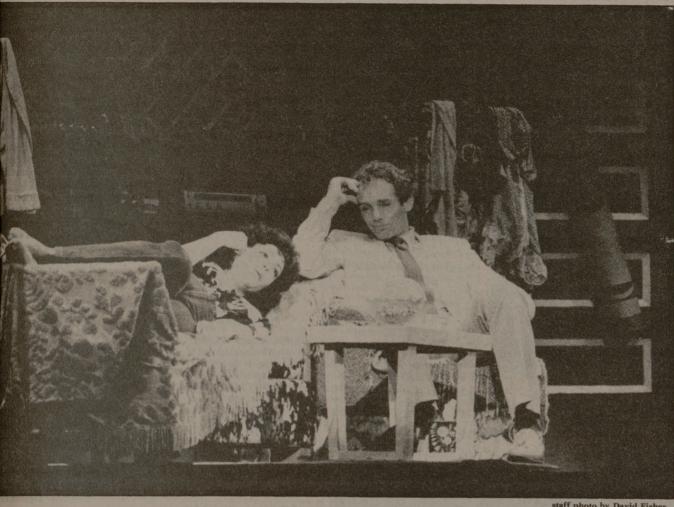
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staff photo by David Fisher

Sonia Walsh and Vernon Gersch discuss their future musical collabarations in Town Hall's presentation of Neil Simon's "Their Playing our

at Rudder Auditorium Thursday night. June Gable portrayed Sonia and Richard Ryder portrayed Vernon.

Broadway hit 'Song' a madcap musical

by Rebeca Zimmermann
Battalion Staff
Broadway took a detour
through Texas A&M University on Thursday night in the form of a dynamic musical comedy by

"They're Playing Our Song," presented by MSC Town Hall, received loud and lengthy ap-

Review

plause from the audience, with small groups giving the performers a standing ovation.

Music for the play was com-posed by Marvin Hamlisch, and Carole Bayer Sager wrote the

lyrics for the songs. The opening music, which is energetic, brassy and a bit raucous, sets the tone for the performance's.

The play focuses on Sonia Walsk, a songwriter who buys her clothes second-hand from theater productions, and Ver-non Gersch, a composer who

uses a tape recorder for a diary. Sonia is played by June Gable, formerly a regular on Barney Miller and an award-winner for her performance in "A Comedy of Errors." Richard Ryder, who has performed in other musicals, such as "Fiddler on the Roof," and in Shakespearean non collaborating on some songs. Personality conflicts immediately set in.

Vernon decides "she's a flake" after he waits for her to show up for a rehearsal. She shows up -

but she's a day late. Sonia tells Vernon that when she writes lyrics, she works with "the girls." These girls are voices in her head; they tell her what to do. She tells Vernon he uses "the boys" to hear harmonies in his

The "girls" and "boys" appear singing and dancing in several musical numbers.

Vernon "broke the ice (in their relationship) with a bottle of wine," but he almost bashed her head with it first. She was

productions, plays Vernon.

The play begins in Vernon's apartment, with Sonia and Verapartment, with So restaurant activities while they

listen to their music Sonia's ex-boyfriend, Leon, frequently calls her. Vernon says this is a "yo-yo triangle."
Eventually, Sonia moves in

with Vernon, complete with her giant crayola for the door and her weird wardrobe

During a recording session, Vernon and Sonia break up. He says he feels threatened and doesn't know who he is any-more. Sonia sings a tear-jerking song, "I Still Believe in Love,"

which later became a hit. Sonia comes back into Vernon's life when he is in the hospital with a broken leg. Finally, Sonia and Vernon get

back together, thereby proving late — as usual — to meet Ver- that happy endings are possible,

Engineering freshmen visited by professionals

The professionals, most from

The design graphics class in-

engineers act as consultants to case for our students." Battalion Reporter students who have been Professional engineers visit assigned special design probeshmen classes in the Depart-lems, Dr. James Earle, head of pressed with Texas A&M students, and their companies think of the University when

ent of Engineering Design the department, said. After stuaphics each semester to pro- dents have brainstormed, prestudents with a better pared solutions and organized nderstanding of engineering their findings, the engineers retheir findings, the engineers re-turn to review the presentations. offer advice to the faculty, Earle

This semester's assignments said. They also help update Texas companies, visit the clas- include a manually operated estwice a semester. This semestrash-compactor, a gate-opener er, 42 engineers from 30 com- for ranchers, an overhead promies will participate in the jector adapter and a pole vault

"The contact with industry is oduces students to design, ap- important," Earle said. "It seems to action, communication and to stimulate the students' in-

During their first visit, the "The program is a good show-

courses to keep up with changes

they begin to hire, he said.

The visiting engineers evalu-

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