

# Celebrities visiting A&M demand star treatment

By DOLORES HAJOVSKY  
Reporter

Common hospitality is shown to entertainers who come to Texas A&M.

Before an MSC Town Hall concert or Broadway show, MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society production or MSC Basement concert is conducted at Texas A&M the entertainers' contract must be agreed upon.

In a contract is a "rider" that specifies exactly what the entertainers request from where they perform.

"Most entertainers just want to be treated like human beings," Suzanne Becker, adviser for Town Hall, said. "They just want fresh food and clean towels—the more things agreed upon ahead of time the fewer surprises when the performers arrive. One of the first things I tell them is that University policy prohibits alcohol. This is not too well received but it is accepted."

The contracts are the same whether the entertainers are in Reunion Arena in Dallas or in Podunk, Texas, which causes problems, Becker said.

"For example, Adam Ant was appalled he had to ride in a University car and that we didn't have a limousine for him," Becker said. "When Jimmy Buffet came in town he wanted 20 Hawaiian shirts for that evening's performance. Twenty Hawaiian shirts are not easy to find."

There are a few items commonly found in most contracts, Becker said. Everybody must have bottled water, and most performers want oxygen close by in case of an emergency, Becker said.

"Cheap Trick's contract is an example of the extent of details the performers want," Becker said. "For 25 people at 2 p.m., not a minute later, they wanted a meal for their crew to consist of a lunch deli tray, hot soup, light rye and wheat breads, plus condiments, milk, coffee and soft drinks. If one item was not prepared as specified they got furious."

"At 6 p.m., not a minute later, a catered hot meal for 25 people was to include a hot meat dish, hot vegetables, light rye and wheat breads, butter, desert, condiments, milk, coffee and soft drinks."

"It goes into even more detail for the four-member band. We must provide around \$1,000 in food per show and most of it goes to waste."

Jim Hurd, adviser for the Broadway division of Town Hall, said the performers he deals with are more professional actors and not as much



Cheap Trick is one of several visiting groups whose contracts require the sponsoring organization to provide special treatment while at Texas A&M.

"celebrities." They do not ask to be catered to as much, Hurd said.

When Town Hall provides a fruit basket or flowers it is because the contract asked for it or the organization wants to provide something nice to make them feel good, Hurd said.

"Most actors I deal with don't want anything to eat before they perform, but afterwards they appreciate the gesture," Hurd said.

Hurd said Town Hall will provide coffee, doughnuts, and recreational passes to the loading crew, because that is who they work with most of the time.

"The technical crew will come in the morning of a performance and set up the stage," Hurd said. "The actors will come in the evening, perform and leave."

The same is true with OPAS, Hurd said. The university sets up the shell of the stage for a ballet or a

concert and the performers just entertain, Hurd said.

"When Dianna Ross came she arrived an hour before the show, got ready, performed and left—nobody even talked to her," Hurd said.

Darlene Wilson, vice chairman of student development for Basement, said a food plate is provided for their entertainers because it is just common courtesy.

"Most of the performers we deal with are local talent," Wilson said. "When they are only being paid \$1,000 a performance they don't have too much clout."

Wilson says Basement will sponsor two big shows a year paying \$5,000, and for those hotel accommodations and whatever else the performer asks for are provided.

Wilson says what is provided depends on the person. Sometimes the performers just want water by the stage, Wilson said.

# Town Hall plans for variety during the 1984-85 season

By JULIE ENNIS  
Reporter

Expect to see new faces and new kinds of entertainment offered by MSC Town Hall this fall.

Julie Plessala of Houston, this year's Town Hall chairman, is trying to bridge the variety of entertainment tastes at Texas A&M.

"I want to see more variation in the groups that come to A&M," she says.

This year Town Hall is planning to book a variety of performers from jazz music to country western music to comedian acts.

"It's very difficult to please everyone," Plessala says. The toughest part of her job, she says, is planning the calendar for the Texas A&M school year.

"The 1983 fall semester was saturated with concerts," she says, "so this year we are cutting down the amount of fall concerts from seven to about five."

An effort will be made to schedule the entertainers on football weekend to get maximum attendance from

the concerts, she says.

"People can stay at home and watch their favorite groups on television," she says. "We want to bring top name performers to A&M so you don't have to go to Houston or Dallas to see them in person."

Plessala says Town Hall uses student opinion surveys to help in scheduling performances.

"Most students want to hear the hottest groups on the charts, but many of these groups are not touring," she says, "so we go by the suggestions on the surveys and contact the agents about the availability of the groups. Then we begin to negotiate the details."

"It can be difficult convincing big-name entertainers to play in a small town, but we're lucky because we can catch some of them in between Dallas, Austin, San Antonio or Houston."

Plessala, who was chosen Town Hall chairman in April, says she wants to continue to uphold the image of Town Hall and continue to bring quality entertainment to Texas A&M.

Plessala says Town Hall will have about 30 freshmen members this fall.

"It is important to have a diversified committee to bring diverse entertainment to Texas A&M," she says.

Town Hall has taken advantage of its large membership and has divided into two subcommittees: Broadway and Concert.

"We didn't split into two separate Town Hall organizations," she says. "We just needed to focus more effective attention to both these areas."

Although no concerts have been scheduled, Plessala says Drama Seven Bridled for Seven Brothers, night Mother, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Gigi, and Some Like Cole have been tentatively scheduled for the 1984-85 Town Hall Broadway season.

Applications for fall interest will be available the first week of classes.

Town Hall Broadway season tickets and Town Hall concert passes can be bought at the Box Office.

# OPAS' 12th season hosting varied, international lineup

By Karl Spence  
Reporter

Audiences for this year's MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society series will find an international lineup that OPAS sponsors feel fortunate to present.

"Texas A&M and the Brazos Valley are very lucky to have a series such as this," OPAS committee adviser Arlene Manthey says. "You'd have to look far and wide for much finer."

The lineup of performers, all booked for Rudder Auditorium, consists of:

- The Black Light Theatre of Prague, a Czechoslovakian mime and music theatrical troupe, on Sept. 18. The troupe has toured the world since 1961.

- The London Philharmonic Orchestra, Klaus Tennstedt conducting, on Oct. 18. The Philharmonic has been a major world orchestra for a half-century. Its music director, Klaus Tennstedt, has conducted every major American symphony as well as those in Berlin, Vienna, Paris, Rotterdam, and Israel.

- The Western Opera Theater, performing Rossini's "La Cenerentola" (Cinderella), on Oct. 29. This

touring and educational affiliate of the San Francisco Opera performs the comic opera the Oregon Journal calls "ideal as an introduction to opera for those who have never seen one before."

- St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Pinchas Zukerman playing and conducting, on Jan. 24. The only full-time professional chamber orchestra in the United States, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra has won numerous awards, as has violinist Zukerman.

- Emanuel Ax, pianist, on Feb. 25. A young "old master," Ax won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in 1974.

- The King's Singers, on March 19. Six Englishmen from King's College, Cambridge, sing classical, folk and modern music a cappella.

- The Houston Ballet, performing "Mixed Repertoire," on April 10. The company performed for OPAS last year and returns with a new program of modern and original selections to end the season.

There is also an extra-season special attraction, the Houston Ballet performing "Swan Lake" on April 11.

Manthey says these shows are of

the quality that tour Houston and other major cities. OPAS president Patricia Peters adds that the London Philharmonic is not even performing in Houston.

Manthey points out that the London Philharmonic and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra were booked two years in advance, such is the demand for their performances.

There are two "sleepers" on the schedule: the Black Light Theatre of Prague and the King's Singers.

"The Black Light Theatre can be one of our most dynamic all year," Manthey says. "Where they play, they get great reviews."

As for the King's Singers, she says, "People that know them get very excited to hear they are on our series."

Peters says the appreciation gifts show for OPAS performers reciprocated.

"Performers come having visited lots of halls around the world," she says that Rudder is one of the best she says.

Season ticket prices range from \$39 to \$70 for students and \$56 to \$89 for non-students. Seats not reserved by season ticket holders are available for individual performances.

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