

Musical revives fable of show business

'42nd Street' performance exhilarating

By MARY McWHORTER
Staff Writer

"Come and meet those dancing feet, on the avenue I'm taking you to, on 42nd Street!"

The audience in Rudder Auditorium was wowed Thursday night with a toe tappin', finger snappin' performance of David Merrick's "42nd Street."

The show began at full speed and couldn't be stopped — not one exhibi-

larating, campy, funny and downright swell moment of it.

Set in 1933, "42nd Street" was a resurrection of the old show business fable where the star can't go on and the greenhorn takes her place and becomes an even bigger star. Cathy Wydner knocks 'em dead as Peggy Sawyer. Her dancing was incredible, as was everyone's.

Dorothy Brock, the gaudy and aging star, was played properly by Elizabeth French. Gary Marshal also hits

From director/choreographer Gower Champion's flashy tap dancing to Theoni V. Aldredge's silky, satiny, sparkling costumes and the spirit-lifting, jazzy old tunes, "42nd Street" doesn't miss a trick.

the mark with his characterization of the tough director with a heart of gold, Julian Marsh.

But this show really had no stars, the show was the star. From director/choreographer Gower Champion's flashy tap dancing to Theoni V. Aldredge's silky, satiny, sparkling costumes and the spirit-lifting, jazzy old tunes, "42nd Street" doesn't miss a trick.

"We're in the Money" and "Lul-

laby of Broadway" provide some fantastic numbers, as does "Shuffle Off to Buffalo." Performed in the sleeping births of a train chugging along to New York, the number features a scantily clad women's chorus trilling the lyrics in their nighties like Las Vegas show girls.

And of course you can't forget the show stopper — "42nd Street." A fine piece of razzle dazzle, "42nd Street" is the show of shows — a snazzy bit of entertainment.

Chagra dealt second conspiracy conviction

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Elizabeth Chagra was convicted Thursday for the second time of conspiring to kill the federal judge scheduled to preside over the drug racketeering trial of her husband.

U.S. District John H. Wood Jr., known as "Maximum John" for the stiff sentences he dealt drug offenders, was shot in the back by a sniper as he left his San Antonio condominium on May 29, 1979.

A federal jury found Mrs. Chagra guilty of murder conspiracy Thursday after deliberating 10 hours over two days.

Sentencing was set for March 10, when she could receive up to 30 years in prison.

Mrs. Chagra, 32, showed no emotion as

the jury's decision was read and told reporters she had no comment.

Defense attorney Larry Zinn, said, "There definitely will be an appeal."

"I think we have a better chance than we had before."

Mrs. Chagra was convicted of the conspiracy charge in 1982, but an appeals court overturned the conviction because of improper jury instructions.

At the time of his death, Wood was scheduled to hear a case involving her husband, Jamiel "Jimmy" Chagra, who was accused of making up to \$10 million a year smuggling boatloads of marijuana into Florida.

Jurors asked to listen again Thursday to testimony about how Mrs. Chagra delivered

\$250,000 that went to Wood's hired killer, Charles Harrelson, who is serving a life sentence for the judge's murder.

The panel reheard testimony from Teresa Starr, Harrelson's stepdaughter, who received the payoff, and also had replayed four tapes of secretly recorded conversations between Mrs. Chagra and her husband in a federal prison.

Mrs. Chagra took the stand during the trial, which started Feb. 5, and contended she thought the \$250,000 was for one of her husband's gambling debts.

She also contended she knew nothing about plans to kill the judge by her husband and his brother, Joe, who pleaded guilty to murder conspiracy in a bargain with the government.

Jimmy Chagra was acquitted in 1983 of murder and murder conspiracy charges, but was convicted of obstructing justice in the investigation into Wood's death.

Mrs. Chagra's chief defense attorney, Warren Burnett, said Thursday, "I would hate to be one of the jurors who voted for this verdict and then finds out that Jimmy Chagra was acquitted of this same thing previously."

"We could not show this to the jury because of a court order."

"It might have made a great difference."

Joe Chagra, testifying as a government witness during the trial, said his brother agreed to the plan, but that Mrs. Chagra had no part in the scheme.

Students may apply to attend lecture series

Texas A&M's Wiley Lecture Series Monday will begin taking applications for attendance of lectures by former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, historian and author Stephen Ambrose, and "Newsweek" columnist George Will, the four series speakers.

The seminars will be April 1 at 2:30 p.m. in Rudder Tower. Applicants can attend only one seminar. Each session is limited to 60 students.

Each speaker will give a 15-25 minute lecture and a question-and-answer period will follow.

The topic this year is "U.S. Interventionism: Resolving International Conflicts."

Ford will discuss the Gramm-Rudman law and Carter will lecture on terrorism. Ambrose will discuss Nixon's foreign policy and Will's topic is "Government: The Disease for Which it Pretends to be the Cure."

Applications are available at the Student Programs Office in 216 MSC. The deadline is March 10. Applicants must provide their social security number as a security check.

Ruben Brochner, seminar planner, said, "We are trying to provide a way for students to interact on a more personal basis with the speakers we bring."

ATTENTION

DANCE ARTS SOCIETY MEMBERS

All members interested in performing in the spring show on April 25 need to contact their teachers this week.

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