

Fallout Theater ushers in true romance

By Traci Travis

THE BATTALION

"The Love of Don Perlimplin with Belisa in His Garden"
 Federico Garcia Lorca
 Starring Cory Bland, Jennifer Kinard, Shannon Smith, Mylene Leibrock, Joe Armon and Haven Humbert
 Directed by Steven De Korne
 Fallout Theater (Blocker Building), 862-2052



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Jennifer Kinard and Mylene Leibrock star in the American Laboratory Theater's production of "The Love of Don Perlimplin with Belisa in His Garden."

It's quite possibly the truest of true romances. Federico Garcia Lorca's "The Love of Don Perlimplin with Belisa in His Garden" will send your mind on a roller coaster of love and hate.

An arranged marriage between an older, lovesick man and a young, greedy woman creates a plot that is so deep that discussion is sure to follow.

The play opens with an aged Don Perlimplin (Cory Bland) arguing with his maid, Marcolfa (Shannon Smith). Marcolfa is pleading with Perlimplin to marry the young and selfish Belisa (Jennifer Kinard).

Belisa agrees to Perlimplin's marriage proposal, but only because there is power and money involved.

Belisa has earned a reputation for herself by being more than promiscuous. On their wedding night alone, five men visit the newlyweds' bedroom.

Despite her lack of devotion, Perlimplin falls helplessly in love with Belisa and confesses this to his bride on their wedding night.

Carelessly, Belisa shrugs off her husband and responds to his confession with a sigh of "so

what?"

This lack of interest, however, does not discourage Perlimplin's desire to be loved in return.

In order to see Belisa learn to love, Perlimplin takes on the mind of a young man.

The remainder of the play becomes a struggle for Perlimplin against love of the body and love of the soul.

Incredible symbolism is scattered throughout the play. Half of the fun is trying to figure out the meaning behind the words.

For those who enjoy the personal touch, the Fallout Theater is for you. Seating a maximum of 50

people, the theater provides a definite, up-close experience.

Behind the scenes of this unique production is the American Laboratory Theater.

The company consists of ten dedicated students who create the play from top to bottom. Each play is entirely a student production and offers the company members a very well-rounded education.

Dr. Oscar Giner, head of the theater arts department, established the company in the fall of 1992 to encourage students to create their own American theater identity.

For this reason, the American Laboratory Theater brings primarily American playwrights, mostly of Hispanic and Native American backgrounds, to its stage.

Because each production is entirely student-produced, the play's impression is even stronger. Strong acting performances will guarantee the members of the company a promising future. These student actors and actresses will completely amaze you.

And despite its most unlikely location, the Fallout Theater just may be Blocker's best kept secret.

Gershwin's 'Porgy and Bess' comes to Rudder

By Jennifer Gressett

THE BATTALION

George Gershwin's American masterpiece, "Porgy and Bess," will bring a taste of South Carolina to Rudder Auditorium tonight.

This one-night performance has come to Aggieland as part of a three-month tour of the United States and Canada, originating in Charleston, S.C., where the story of Porgy was conceived.

Based on the novel by Dubose Heyward, "Porgy and Bess" is a love story which takes place among a handfull of poor black fishermen and gamblers. Although Heyward wrote the original "Porgy," it was his collaboration with the famed Gershwin that has audiences and critics across America talking about their opera, "Porgy and Bess."

"Combine the marvelous songs and the intriguing storyline with the conventions of opera, and you get a musical like no other, an American original," critic Julie Kistler said.

Presented by the Living Arts,

Inc., of New York City, this production of "Porgy and Bess" will include a cast of outstanding operatic singers from all over the United States. Perhaps the most

notable feature of this ensemble is the consistent role rotation of the main characters.

"The idea that there are two other, equally talented Porgys

waiting in the wings is astonishing," Kistler said.

While three singers — Elizabeth Graham, Roberta Laws and Vanessa Stewart — will alternate as Bess, three more — William Marshall, Andre Solomon-Glover and Alvy Powell — will alternate the role of Porgy.

Directed by Will Roberson, assistant director for the Houston Grand Opera's Paris tour, the production will feature the Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

Led by music director David Stahl, the orchestra is one of the leading arts organizations in the Southeast, and has become a musical compliment to "Porgy and Bess." Favorite tunes in the production such as, "It Ain't Necessarily So," "I Got Plenty O' Nuttin'" and "Bess, You Is My Woman," will bring to life the physical and emotional connection between Porgy and Bess.

Aggieland is invited to join the cast on "Catfish Row" tonight. The performance will begin at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. For ticket information call the MSC Box Office at 845-1234.



The Living Arts, Inc. brings the American original musical "Porgy and Bess" to Texas A&M tonight.

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