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AGGIELIFE

Just singin' in Rudde

On-stage rainstorm will add touch of reality to OPAS production of classic musical

By Karen Janes THE BATTALION

rainstorm will be passing through Rudder Auditori-Tum on Saturday. Yes, through Rudder Auditorium.

MSC OPAS is presenting the classic musical Singin' in the Rain. The real rainstorm will occur during the famous "Singin' in the Rain" number, when 45 gallons of water will fall onto the auditorium stage.

Jeffrey Cranor, the OPAS director of audience education and development and a senior journalism major, has never seen the musical onstage.

"I am anxious to see it," Cranor said, "especially the rain scene. It should be really neat."

The musical comedy Singin' in the Rain originated as an MGM movie in 1952. The movie, which has made several top 10 movie lists worldwide, starred Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, Jean Hagen and Debbie Reynolds in her first starring role.

Since then, Singin' in the Rain has been on Broadway and toured internationally. The musical has been extremely successful onstage, partly because of its broad audience appeal. In 1989, it was one of the first 25 films selected by the Library of Congress for its film registry of Significant Motion Pictures

'Faculty, students and adults in the community have all been buying tickets for the show," Cranor said. "A wide variety of people are coming to see it."

Michael Hernandez, account coordinator and media planner for play publicist The Matthews Group, said Singin' in the Rain has something for everyone.

"Older people will enjoy this production because they will remember seeing the original movie version," Hernandez said. "The young will enjoy it, too. It has lots of highenergy dancing and music.

The characters in the musical are dancing and singing in Hollywood in the 1920s. It is a time of glamorous actresses and matinee idol actors. The two hottest silent movie stars of the era are Don Lockwood and Kathy Selden. Lockwood and Selden, however, are facing tough times.

The age of "talkies," or movies with sound, is dawning on Hollywood. It turns out that although Selden is a beautiful silent picture actress, her voice is far from perfect.

The musical goes on to tell the story of Hollywood's transition from silent films to talkies.

Rain is a light musical comedy the audience can sit back and enjoy.

"The story is not too deep," he said. "It's good old fashioned fun." Cranor described Singin' in the Rain as "fascinating."

It is one of the most diverse shows that OPAS has put on. The Hernandez said Singin' in the group producing Singin' in the Rain

is the same that did Crazy last year and The Wizardo eral years back.

Friday • January 3

Cranor said Singin' in the one of the biggest and mos

Roller Coas Hits The sub-free ares most of T uring the beg nester have ta e Aggies. Not onditions hur mperatures o nto the mid-70 hen plummete he 30s earlier ness started m round the tea

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Excel in While the m ack and field ompeting in (ast weekend, event compe ubbock at the etic Training (A&M's Ryan

give other blues musicians in Austin ach Chad Meyer fin "It's just my destiny," he said. "I got a lot of l he men's penta edge man, from watching clubs go do ludson domin vomen's comp Although Clark was initially skeptical Nelson said called "the Godfather," he said he under ors have a cha ome people ii "It gives me pride," he said. "I was the Championship

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June 16 during a ceremony by from The Grand Ole Opry television's The Nashville Net The event is one of three country music awards sho

Winners are to be ann

sure it is. As long as there's sadness, the

Clark said he hopes to open a club him

the only one in which fans Nominees were picked through loting in Music City News, ac music fan magazine. Winners picked by fans through the ma and a toll telephone number. LeAnn Rimes, a teen-ag

has sold over 3 million of h bum "Blue," was nominate times, for vocal collaborat male star of tomorrow, an single for "Blue."

Austin blues 'Godfather' to visit B-C By MICHAEL SCHAUB

THE BATTALION

laying the blues is more than just a job for Austin musician W. C. Clark. It's the very act

'Ask a blues musician what the blues means," Clark said. "The first thing I'd have to say is survival, the way it soothes my soul, satisfies my hunger for playing the guitar, making music.'

Clark will bring his guitar-centered blues to Bryan's 3rd Floor Cantina Saturday at 9 p.m.

The veteran guitarist, singer and songwriter is no stranger to Bryan-College Station. He has performed to a packed house several times at the 3rd Floor Cantina.

Saturday's performance supports last year's release of Texas Soul, his third album and second release on Black Top Records.

Clark said his influences as a songwriter

"B. B. King, I do a lot of his stuff," Clark said. "When he writes a blues song, the meaning

But Clark said he takes his cue from more than just blues musicians.

"I listen to jazz," he said. "I've always loved the jazz from the old guitar players like Wes Montgomery and George Benson.'

Texas Soul contains four of Clark's original songs and numbers by B. B. King, Johnny Taylor, and Larry Graham and Sam Cooke. The album also features a cover of Willie Nelson's "Funny How Time Slips Away.

Clark is still firmly based in the blues, though, and he said contemporary music takes much of its influence from early blues pioneers.

"Each style of music will have a little piece of the blues in it," he said. "When the styles come back around, they come back to the basic blues structure.' Clark's experience dates back to his teen-age

years, when he played bass for T. D. Bell's band. Much of his musical influence in his early years came from the songs he heard at the Baptist church his family attended.

His big break came in the early 1960s, when blues legend Joe Tex hired Clark as a guitarist. Clark said working with Tex was a learning experience.

I learned a lot about how to control the audience," he said. "Sometimes the blues just flows, and sometimes you've got to make it happen. It's really all within yourself."

Clark spent a few years in the the Triple Threat Revue with the late Texas blues musician Stevie Ray Vaughan. Clark co-wrote Vaughan's hit single "Cold Shot," which he recorded for his 1994 album Heart of Gold.

Later, he formed his own band, the W. C. Clark Blues Revue, which has played with legends such as B. B. King, James Brown and Bob-

His growing renown in Austin led to his nickname "Godfather of the Austin blues.

SPRING 'MAKEUPS' It's not too late to get in the '97 Aggieland Don't miss out on this final Class pictures will be taken 9 opportunity to be in Texas a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through A&M's Aggieland yearbook. Friday until Feb. 21. Pictures being taken ON CAMPUS in MSC basement across from University PLUS Class Portraits by **AR Photography**

"I didn't even know what that meant until I read it in the paper," Clark said. "It means I'm the link between the black and the white. For a long time, I was the only black coming from Austin's east side over to the west side.

The "Godfather's" band regularly cleans up at the Austin Music Awards, and Clark has been featured in the pages of People Weekly and the Chicago Tribune.

Clark said he sees no end to the blues or his

"Is the blues still alive?" Clark said. "Oh, yeah, fore, and ever since, and I'm still here."

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Alan

Ly News Country Awards.

Jackson edged Vince Gill to win the

most nominations for the 1997 TNN

Jackson, who was named enter-

tainer of the year at last year's cere-

mony, had seven nominations in

Wednesday's announcement. The

singer is up for best entertainer

once again, best male vocalist, al-

bum (Everything I Love), single

("Little Bitty"), vocal collaboration,

Gill had six nominations, includ-

nees for best entertainer are Billy

Ray Cyrus, Reba McEntire and

and two video awards.

George Strait.

TNN announces nomined

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