

# THE BATTALION AGGIELIFE

## Kiss of the Spiderwoman brings R-rated 'slice of intellect' to Texas A&M

BY MICHAEL SCHAUB  
THE BATTALION

More than 20 years after Argentine novelist Manuel Puig penned *El Beso de la Mujer Arana* (*Kiss of the Spider Woman*), audiences nationwide flock to see the newest incarnation of the *Kiss*, a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical.

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society will bring the NET-works production of the musical to the Rudder Auditorium tonight at 8. The performance comes on the heels of shows in Shreveport, La., and Jackson, Miss.

Jeffrey Cranor, director of audience education and development for OPAS and a senior journalism major, said *Kiss of the Spider Woman* offers audiences something different from most Broadway musicals.

"It's a musical that makes you think," Cranor said. "It's still an entertaining, fun show, but it has an edge over a lot of Broadway shows. It has a slice of intellect."

The musical version of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* swept the 1993 Tony Awards, winning seven, including Best Musical. Puig's novel also was adapted as a stage play and a critically-acclaimed motion picture.

"I love it," Cranor said. "It's wonderful. It'll be interesting to see a completely different cast perform it."

The musical tells the story of two prisoners in South America: Molina, jailed for his homosexuality, and Valentin, jailed for his Marxism.

The two become reluctant friends as Molina shares with Valentin his obsession with the movie star Aurora. Molina is haunted by a film in which Aurora played "the Spider Woman," a harbinger of death he continues to see in his dreams.

The musical's depiction of torture and cruel prison conditions are the reasons OPAS gave the production an "R" rating, Cranor said.

**"It's a musical that makes you think."**

Jeffrey Cranor  
OPAS director of audience education and development

"Hopefully, the rating will let families know what to expect from it," he said. "I wouldn't say it's inappropriate. It informs people about social conditions in a despotic government."

Argentine actress Sandra Guida plays the roles of Aurora and the Spider Woman.

Guida said the tour has gone smoothly despite the play's intense subject matter.

"People love the show," Guida said. "They're very accepting. It's not an easy show to digest."

See *Kiss*, Page 4



Mila Mason

BY MELISSA PRICE  
THE BATTALION

Some things are passed on from generation to generation — heirlooms, old keepsakes and even musical talent.

Mila Mason, a 32-year-old up-and-coming country and western singer from Kentucky, grew up in the midst of the entertainment industry. Her mother, a musician who often took her children along while touring, sparked Mason's interest in pursuing a music career.

"My whole family can sing — sometimes you just can't help following in their footsteps," Mason said.

Mason will perform along with country artist Kenny Chesney in the "Wal-Mart Country Music Across America Tour" tonight at 7. The free concert, which will be held at the Super Wal-Mart store in Bryan, will be followed by an in-store album signing session by both artists. Both Mason and Chesney will perform 40-minute sets in front of about 2,000 people.

The tour, which originated in 1995, aims to accelerate the career development of upcoming country musicians while providing free family entertainment. This year's tour will visit more than 260 Wal-Mart store parking lots across the nation.

Country Music Television

(CMT), the newest addition to the concert series, will be touring with the artists and filming concerts for a two-hour program.

Mason said the Wal-Mart concert gives families from small towns an opportunity to see performances they would not normally have the chance to see. Mason said she prefers performing in small towns because she is able to closely interact with the fans.

"It has a homespun flavor to it, whereas other concerts get way too big," she said. "It's a great outdoor live concert that you can bring the kids to — it's like the big ol' Sunday barbecue."

Chesney, who did not consider a music career until he was in college, hit the top five in 1995 with "Don't That Make You Want to Fall in Love" and "All I Need to Know." Chesney, who got his first break in the music business as a songwriter, said being a country singer is what he is all about. Although the entertainment industry can get hectic, Chesney said performing in front of fans is an exhilarating experience.

"Just being up there hearing crowds, being able to sing my records and having people know them — that's a great feeling," Chesney said. "When I am on stage and everything is clicking, it's awesome."

Charlie Hadleman, a disc jockey

## It's a country thing

### Kenny Chesney and Mila Mason will perform today at the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Bryan

at KORA and a freshman journalism major, saw the Wal-Mart tour in Texarkana in April 1996. He said students and Bryan-College Station residents should take advantage of this one-of-a-kind opportunity.

"We get the local favorites who are established here like the Bellamy Brothers, but rarely do we get someone who is up-and-coming," Hadleman said. "This concert is more per-

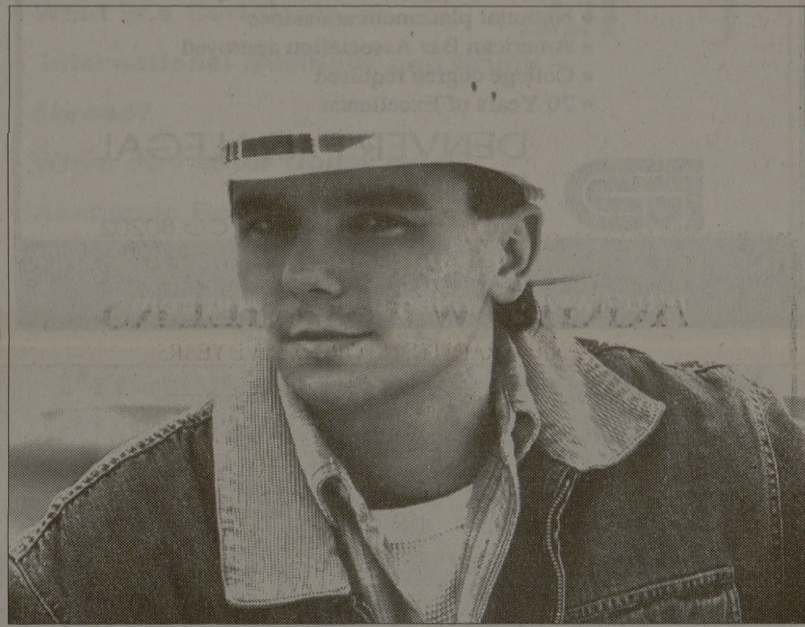
sonal — if you go to the Summit, you're not going to be as close."

Mason said she suspects the audience will enjoy the laid-back atmosphere of the Wal-Mart concert tonight.

"They can expect to have as much fun as we are having," Mason said. "We're just a bunch of goofballs. We're nothing pretentious — we're just out there having fun."



Sandra Guida plays "the Spider Woman," a fictional 'harbinger of death.'



Kenny Chesney

MSC TOWN HALL PRESENTS

# CAKE

APRIL 24

RUDDER AUDITORIUM

7:00 PM



TICKETS ON SALE SATURDAY

8 a.m. at the MSC Box Office

with Special Guest to be Announced

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability. **ALL SEATS RESERVED 10 TICKET LIMIT**

## HOWDY!

The Vice President for Student Affairs Office wants you to be aware of our open door policy.

Our office is here to help you in any way possible. So, if there is anything we can do to make life at Texas A&M better, come by 10th floor Rudder Tower or call 845-4728.

### JOB OPENINGS IN AGGIELAND

Graduation ... Time for celebration, Time for reflection, and Time to LOOK FOR A JOB! The career you are looking for may be closer than you think.

Universal Computer Systems, Inc., is among the industry leaders when it comes to providing quality computer systems to automobile dealerships. We have a long-standing tradition to our commitment to excellence and seek to hire the best potential employees possible.

In addition to available positions located at our headquarters in Houston, we are offering the opportunity to work in a professional capacity in our newly expanded College Station facility. And our commitment to Aggieland is growing with the announcement of our newest 215,000 sq. ft. facility scheduled to open in College Station in 1998!

If you are among the many Aggies who want to remain close to their second home after graduation and want to develop a career with an innovative, conservative and growing company, give us a call or send us your resume. All majors are welcome to apply!

Universal Computer Systems, Inc.

6700 Hollister, Houston, TX. 77040

800-718-1400

713-718-1400

www.ucs-systems.com

UCS...A Tradition in Quality,

A Commitment to Aggieland.