

# StageCenter opens season

By RYAN LOCKER  
Staff writer

The community theater group StageCenter is back in full force with its new production of "The Heidi Chronicles," which opens on Thursday, Oct. 2. This is the troupe's 33rd season and they expect it to be better than ever.

Sally McKnight, president of the organization, said she is willing to incorporate into the group anyone who wants to help.

"One of the neatest things that we do as a community theater is that if someone wants to come direct a play, then we give them that opportunity," McKnight said.

This may not guarantee a stage part for anyone who walks in, but there are many roles that can use the enthusiasm of someone who merely wants to help promote thespian groups.

The troupe has six plays planned for this season, excluding summer productions. This current play marks the beginning of a new season after doing a rock 'n' roll show in April and a few one-act plays over the summer. The cast ranges from student to staff, and they have been hammering at their lines since auditions in mid-August.

"The Heidi Chronicles," a Pulitzer Prize winner written by Wendy Wasserstein, is being directed by Julie Angelo, a newcomer to the StageCenter troupe. She is not, however, new to play directing, as she came to Bryan-College Station from Denton after directing many community theater productions. She is also the executive director of The American Association of Community Theaters.

Through working with Angelo, the cast is getting a taste of what McKnight said she feels is true professional direction.

The play, which McKnight said is one of the most controversial that StageCenter has done, is about the transition of a history professor through three decades.

"The play is about what it was like growing up in the baby boom generation," Angelo said. The story begins with professor Heidi



Sarah Kestler, a senior business analysis major plays Heidi Holland alongside Shaun Travers, who plays Peter Patrone in StageCenter's production of The Heidi Chronicles. The play opens this weekend.

(Sarah Kestler, a senior business analysis major) in the '60s and covers moments in her life through the '80s.

Heidi's experiences in the play include going through the '60s time period and other events indicative of each era.

"It is about a woman who is part of the women's movement, but not a radical feminist," Angelo said.

The play is a drama, but has enough light-hearted moments to vary the emotional experience for the viewer. It is mostly about how Heidi deals with the transition periods of those three decades and how they affect her life and perspective.

"You see her hopeful in the beginning, and then go through a period of disillusionment, and finally, in the end, she regains her hope-

fulness for future generations," Angelo said.

The theater expects to fill up for most of the performances, especially the first one because season tickets have recently gone on sale. The theater in downtown Bryan seats 115-120, but they are happy to bring in extra chairs for those occasions when the turnout goes beyond capacity.

"We can always use more people," McKnight said.

Each performance runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights for three consecutive weekends. "The Heidi Chronicles" is running the next three weekends.

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