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### OPAS brings Broadway musicals and children's programs to B-CS

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The 2000 season of the MSC Opera nd Performing Art Society (OPAS) as already begun and members are oping it will be as popular as ever.

OPAS members said this year's neme, "A Season for all Ages," will hopefully attract larger and younger owds to the performances at A&M.

The current show on OPAS' main tage is the musical Footloose, the stoof a boy and his mother who move to the small town of Bomont.

Footloose's musical soundtrack inudes several hits like "Let's Hear it es for the Boy," and the show has been me of Broadway's most popular.

A few of the highlights of this sea- and Girls Clubs and the North Bryan December, Jekyll and Hyde in January and Peter Pan in February

Jeremy Byrd, OPAS chairman, said the Broadway shows should draw

OPAS also has a children's program called OPAS Jr., which featured a production of Amelia Bedelia Oct. 8 at Rudder Theater. Amelia Bedelia is based on the children's books. The performance was very popular, boasting two sold-out performances.

Allison Dietert, director of OPAS Jr. and a junior agriculture economics major, said OPAS Jr. also does community outreach. OPAS Jr. visits Boys

son are the Boys Choir of Harlem in Community Center to teach children about all types of art.

OPAS Jr. also puts on school performances for Bryan-College Station children in the third through sixth grades. The children are bused to A&M to see the shows during the

Dietert said that, later in the season, the show Bugs and Balloons will come to Rudder Theater, as well as a version of Cinderella performed by puppeteers with life-size puppets.

Last year, OPAS started a new program called Intimate Gatherings, which brings varieties of music to the community that would not normally come

REEL CRITIQUE MOVIE REVIEWS cannot help but think of this film in terms of the Men of Honor cliches on which it relies so heavily — the bigoted Starring Cuba Gooding, Jr.,

and Robert DeNiro Directed George Tillman, Jr.

Men of Honor, based on the life of Navy diving legend Carl Brashear, is a surprisingly powerful film, considering it covers familiar ground. How often have audiences seen a film about a man who is deprived of rights but will not give up?

That is the plot of this film. Brashear (Gooding) beat all the odds to become the first African-American diver in Navy history, and this film chronicles his struggles. The first half of the film is similar to the fictional G.I. Jane, as Brashear is the target of discrimination during his training.

Brashear even has a set of barracks all to himself, just like Demi Moore's character.

This movie is based on true accounts, but one

men whose minds are changed by uncommon valor, the hard-nosed but likeable commander.

But credit director Tillman (Soul Food) for his casting and direction. Somehow, each challenge presented to Brashear does seem grueling.

Tillman avoids camera tricks, letting the actors carry the movie.

Gooding delivers a mesmerizing performance. His posture, expressions, the manner in which he speaks — all ring true.

DeNiro's character is a composite of several actual people in Brashear's life, and it shows.

His character is as two-dimensional as they come, but DeNiro finds the man's heart in this pile of rubbish and manages to make his character seem human. (Grade: B-)

- Matt McCormick

### pcoming



Intimate Gatherings. She said she

"I think it's going to be a really good season," Eftekhar said. "Peter Pan will be cool, and I'm looking forward to Footloose

thinks OPAS will have a good season

Eftekhar said OPAS' performances bring in a variety of people. She estimated the attendance at shows to be about half students and half older adults. Eftekhar said the "big name" shows, such as musicals and ballet, are usually popular.

Kevin Edwards, a sophomore computer science major, said he has been to several OPAS shows.

"I enjoy the broad variety that OPAS brings to the A&M campus and the cultural enrichment that it brings," Edwards said. "Last year, my favorite show was Romeo and Juliet. It was really good. This year, I'm going to see Peter Pan, Footloose and Aeros. But, I'm thoroughly looking forward to Peter Pan."

Tickets for any OPAS event can be obtained through the MSC box office or by calling 845-1234.

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to A&M due to high booking costs.

sic in a smaller setting in a theater,'

Byrd said. "It's not just classical mu-

sic; we have a variety of entertainers."

can interact with the entertainers.

have a great show.

After the show is over, the audience

The next Intimate Gathering will

showcase Daniel Heifetz and the Clas-

sical Band. Dietert said that Heifetz is

a multitalented entertainer who will

ogy major, said many people enjoy the

Bobbie Eftekhar, a junior psychol-

'We wanted to have a series of mu-



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THE BATTALION

Spring 2001

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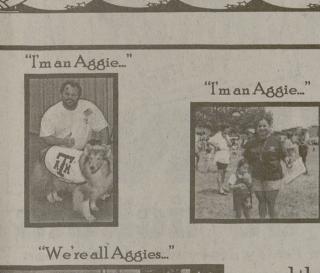
Have completed JOUR 301 (Mass Communication, Law and Society), or equivalent;

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Application forms should be picked up and returned to Francia Cagle, Student Media business coordinator, in room 014A Reed McDonald Building. Deadline for submitting application: noon Friday, November 17, 2000. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Media Board Meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 21, in room 221F Reed McDonald.

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