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By KELLY PREISER THE BATTALION

ggestions and to many, being on the road for 10 conovernment repairive months sounds daunting, but for what they wear-old Kenita Miller, it is worth it. id. Miller, a recent graduate of The f the goals Fraerican Music and Dramatic Academy is working wave York, is performing in her second the available wadway musical. After finishing a tour the Broadway production of Civil the Bloadway plants as Sarah in the awarding Broadway musical, "Ragtime." ly creating and would service Constant touring is a difficult adjustmt, as the cast stays in some places for yone night, Miller said. She said it icts the cast members' sleeping and ing habits. But Miller said she is will-to make this sacrifice; she has a mod of being in show business since said she and her research on dive lucation and the cies at other universe amed of being in show business since now these policies

was a young girl. "I've been singing all my life ... since as three," she said. "I always knew I er campaign pir anted to be on stage ... I want to [peruntil I am physically incapable of

Performing, Miller said, is more than

Il have a tonothe glory of being on stage.

want to talk a Performing is a way of expressing a good that self, she said. "I'm not very social, ted is so helpful when I sing, I let everything out." Miller said she relates to her character, nat we've started

ng. The best way "She's a bit naïve but still strong ... y gullible," Miller said. "She's very onal and lets her emotions make her ents to tell me ons. I can relate to Sarah in that we both kind of naïve."

nile she and Sarah may have simi-m being the same because Sarah's racter existed in such a different Studio me period.

Ragtime takes place at the turn of the th century and centers around three dif-

ferent families with varying backgrounds. There is an upper-middle class, Caucasian family, a Jewish immigrant family and a black family from Harlem. The musical intertwines these families' lives with real-life events, such as Admiral Peary's expedition to the North Pole, the sinking of the Lusitania, the birth of the American Labor Union, the development of assembly-line technology and the dawn of the automotive and motion picture industries. Historical figures including Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, J.P. Morgan and Booker T. Washington also appear in the musical.

Miller said the story of "Ragtime" is much like current events. "The story itself is kind of like what's going on right now," she said. "The main

theme is that even though everyone's different, they can all live together. And they all end up together in a special way."

Miller said several of the cast members are from New York and deeply were affected by the recent events.

"It was hard to know if we could do it," she said. "A lot of us are from New York and a lot of us were affected. With everything that is going on, this is an outlet for us and one way we can give back.

It was also difficult for the cast members to place themselves fully into their characters without incorporating their modern-day views.

"At first it was hard, to be truthful," Miller said. "There are a lot of issues in "Ragtime" that people don't deal with everyday anymore. Like the word 'nigger' comes up a lot. It's a touchy subject but we have to laugh at it and try to make it light-hearted. We can't take it too personally.'

In preparing to portray her character, Miller researched the Ragtime era. Sarah

what a woman in that role would have worn as well as what her lifestyle would have been

Miller's goal in participating in this production is to be as truthful to the era, and to her character, as possible.

"My goal is to be truthful and to try to make it real," she said. "I want people to get sucked into it and really appreciate it."

The "Ragtime" cast has been touring since September. Miller said the cast members are very distinct individuals, because they are all fairly young it is easier for them to relate to each other. The. original cast comprised of 50 members. This production has only 28.

Memorial The Student Center Opera and Performing Arts (OPAS) Society brought "Ragtime" to Rudder auditorium last night and it will show again tonight at 7:30 p.m. There will be a lecture at 6:30 p.m. in MSC 224, hosted by the OPAS Guild Patricia S. Peters Lagniappe Lecture Series at which Dr. Michael Greenwald, a theatre arts and English professor at A&M, will preview was a washwoman and Miller looked into the music of "Ragtime."

Coalhouse Walker Jr. (Quentin Earl Darrington) and Sarah (Kenita Miller) in the National Tour of Ragtime.

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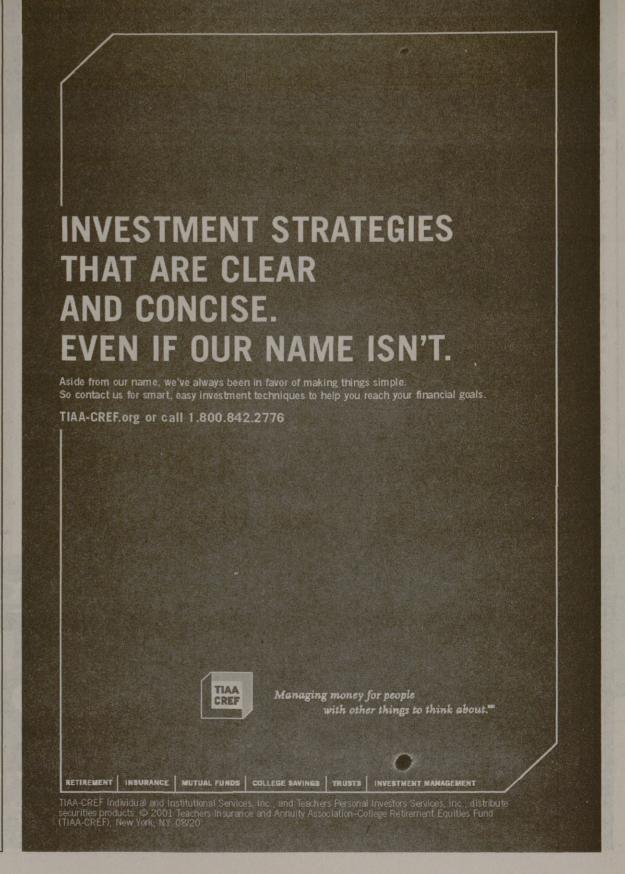
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