



# Broadway on the Strip

by Chuck Foley

"Les Miserables," one of the most elaborate Broadway shows ever produced, will come to Las Vegas Tuesday through Sunday at the Cashman Theatre.

This production replicates the expansive scenery and costumes of the Cameron Mackintosh Broadway production which won the Tony award in 1987 for best musical. Eight truckloads are required to bring the massive props and staging from city to city.

Set up for the show begins a day before the opening to load in the two-and-a-half ton barricade, the Paris slum set and the revolving stage. There are nearly 1,000 props, 1,633 costume pieces, and 50 wigs for the 36-member cast. Six understudies, a 14-piece orchestra and a crew of 19 stagehands tour with the

company as well.

All told, this touring production cost \$4.2 million to stage. Lori Pullen, business manager of the Performing Arts Center, said another production of this sort will not come to Las Vegas until 1995.

There is a possibility the Artemus Ham Concert Hall will host one or more of these events in the future. Funding must be obtained, however, for the necessary structural changes required for large-scale productions such as "Les Miz."

Based on the novel by Victor Hugo about the down-trodden and exploited peasants in early 19th century France, playwrights Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil have written a contemporary opera around the life of the protagonist Jean Valjean.

Played by actor David Clemmons, Valjean emerges

as a heroic figure who has reformed his life after an exile in prison, devoting himself to an orphaned daughter, not his own, and earning the good will of his neighbors as governor of their town.

Inspector Javert, played by Chuck Wagner, doggedly pursues Valjean despite his accomplishments. The story of these two adversaries is set against the backdrop of post-revolutionary France, and dramatizes the chaos and injustice that followed.

This is the only touring production of "Les Miserables" and some tickets are still available for the Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday night performances. They are \$60 and are available at the Performing Arts Center.

This production is presented by arrangement with Nevada Opera Theatre and UNLV Performing Arts Center.



Chuck Wagner as the honorable Inspector Javert, who spends a lifetime tracking the convict Jean Valjean through the French Revolution, details to the audience his undying endeavor, in 'Les Miserables.'

## 'Les Miserables' will hold auditions next week

Auditions for future productions of the Broadway hit "Les Miserables" will be held Monday and Tuesday in Las Vegas.

"Les Miserables" producers and directors are looking for future replacements for Broadway and touring productions of the hit musical.

"We periodically hold auditions outside of New York to be able to see as many per-

formers as possible who might be right for a role," said Richard Jay-Alexander, executive producer and associate director.

The open casting call will be held at Henry LeTang Academy of Dance at 3401 Sirius Ave. Suite 25 for adult and children roles. Adult auditions begin Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Men and women must be

strong singers with a wide range. Contemporary pop or theatre music are appropriate audition pieces, such as: Steven Sondheim, Howard Ashman/Alan Menken, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Billy Joel. Opera, jazz, rhythm and blues, and rock are not proper.

An accompanist will be provided.

Minority actors are encouraged to audition.

## 'The Messiah' comes for two free concerts

The Myron Heaton Chorale Las Vegas, a non-profit group of local performers, will perform Handel's greatest oratorio, "The Messiah," Saturday and Sunday at two area churches.

"We're trying to bring culture to Las Vegas," said Vi Maslow, business manager for the two-and-a-half year-old group.

After returning from a European tour in 1990, Heaton founded the group and opened it up to the community, said Maslow. This

summer, they completed a successful tour in Mexico, selling out a 450-seat auditorium in a concert that featured the works of George Gershwin.

The first performance of "The Messiah" is scheduled at Community Lutheran Church, 3720 E. Tropicana Ave., on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.. Sunday's performance will be at Christ Lutheran Church, 111 N. Torrey Pines at 4 p.m.

Both performances are free to the public.

## Dance pioneer featured in 'Master Class' series

Daniel Nagrin, a pioneer of modern and jazz dance, will present four master classes Tuesday through Thursday in Alta Ham Fine Arts Studio 1.

Over the past few decades, Nagrin has been most influential in the shaping and directing of modern and jazz dance forms. His book, "How to Dance Forever, Surviving against the Odds," tells both the student and the professional dancer how to leap the 40-year barrier and live a long life in dance.

"Last year, everyone who wanted to dance was able to," said Cath Woody, administrative aid in Dance Arts. The classes are free and open to the pub-

lic. They are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The first class, "Jazz Choreography," will be held Tuesday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:50 p.m.

The second class, "How to Dance Forever: Surviving as a Dancer," will be held Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. From 2:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m., "Choreography and the Specific Image" will be the subject.

"Jazz Improvisation" will be held Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

The classes are presented as part of the Southwest Gas Distinguished Artist Series.

now 22. The 22, however, came against a much smaller univer-

where they stand: The No. 15 Runnin' Rebels are 16-3, 11-1 at home, and in second place in the Big West with a 9-2 record. The Aggies are 18-5 overall, 5-3 on the road, and in first place in the conference at

