



# Musical Theatre students to headline at Kennedy Center

by Chuck Foley

When Robert Brewer began his Music Theatre Studio class this semester, he had no idea it would lead to an invitation to perform in Washington D.C. this spring.

"I wasn't even sure we were going to present it," he said.

Now his class of seven graduate students and two additional students will perform the David Shire and Richard Maltby, Jr. musical "Closer Than Ever" at the Kennedy Center for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the American College Theatre Festival.

They will headline the opening festivities April 18, which will be hosted by Jason Robards.

The musical was suggested by former graduate student Andy Rogov for its variety of styles and the opportunities its 25 songs gave the students.

"We worked on it like we were going to do it, only we weren't going to do it," said Brewer.

But they did it.

First, it was presented on

Valentine's Day as a special performance for the theatre department only.

Then, the regional ACTF was being hosted by UNLV Feb. 15-21, and they decided to present it again.

The organization's president, David Young, heard the music as he passed by the Harris Theatre where they were performing it, Brewer said.

"He was on his way to see another entrant. He saw all of Act I, and then asked me during intermission if we would do it at the national."

To help offset the costs of taking the cast and crew to the nation's capitol and give local theatre-goers a chance to see it, a special benefit per-

formance will be presented Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Judy Bayley Theatre.

Tickets are \$10.

Graduate students in the company include Edward M. Barker, Bobby Glen Brown, Jay Duffer, Andrew Emerine,

Linda Pierson, Gerry Schooler and Paul Truckey, with special students Paula Heckman and Ann-Marie Pereth.

Assisting Brewer with class instruction were Jacque Jaeger, the choreographer, and Lynn Trippy, the conduc-

tor.

Graduate students Sas Stover-Hanson and Tim Hanson designed the costumes and lighting, respectively.

Props were designed by undergraduate student Kris Van Ripper.



"Many people think I'm not a regular person because of my seemingly God-like stature thanks to my position in the *Tempest* film ratings system, but I'm just like everyone else,

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