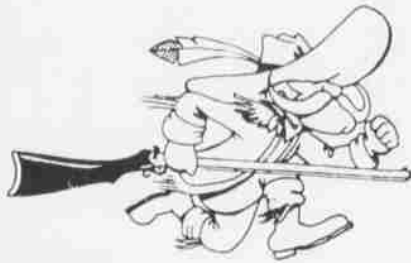


!variety!

**REBEL
YELL**



"I am only a beer teetotaler, not a champagne teetotaler." — George Bernard Shaw

Campus opera thrives despite sagging attendance

Holiday season promises many opportunities to partake in local opera.

By CATHY SCHWABE
STAFF WRITER

This review is directed toward all the people in Las Vegas who cry that they have to drive to Los Angeles for any decent cultural performance. It is also those same people didn't show up for the opera "The Marriage of Figaro" at Ham Hall last week.

Everyone always has an excuse. However, in response to any alibi, the tickets were dirt-cheap, there were three performances with plenty of available seats.

The show was, in short, incredible. The singing was amazing, the orchestra was at its best, and the plot, being a light Mozart comedy, was hilarious and well done. The cast and crew worked their hearts out to put on a beautiful performance and succeeded.

The show was three hours long and, by the looks of the audience, probably didn't gain much profit for it. Here's a thought—maybe the reason Las Vegas doesn't get much attention when it comes to certain shows mapping out their tours is because of the miserable turn out they receive when they do.

There are a few chances would-be opera-goers can take advantage of to redeem themselves. On Dec. 1, the San Francisco Opera Center's touring company will be performing the English version of the light-hearted comedy "Die Fledermaus" (The Bat), at the Artemus Ham Hall.

Another opportunity to experience the culture Las Vegas has to offer is the upcoming Nevada Opera Theater presentation of "Amahl and the Night Visitors." This opera will be performed Dec. 10 at 8 p.m., and Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.

Acoustic Asylum: Crazy musicians

In the midst of this neon jungle, just off The Strip on Harmon sits The Shark Club which is usually jam packed with tourists and disco/Top 40-type club-goers.

But, on Wednesday nights, something happens. It's like a mist that covers the entire building. Suddenly the 70's disco room, The Lava Room, is transformed into an acoustic and relaxed atmosphere. That's because the Paul Summers, Jr. Acoustic Asylum is taking place.

Upon entering the room you can't help but notice the silver disco ball hanging from the center of the



Jay Duffer as Romeo and Corrine Grover as Juliet.

and 8 p.m. in the Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center.

The long awaited production, "Romeo and Juliet" is scheduled to open Dec. 3, in the Judy Bayley Theater at UNLV. This new production of Shakespeare's romance is being directed by assistant professor at UNLV, Michael Lugerling.

Several renowned artists, some local and some guests, will be helping in fight choreography, lighting, musical organization, dance choreography, set design and costume design.

This particular production of "Romeo and Juliet" is adopting an Eastern cultural slant which will be seen through the use of exotic

costumes as well as musical themes.

The play boasts a large cast of university actors whose performance is sure to please.

Performances are at 8 p.m. Dec. 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Dec. 5 and 12.

Also to be performed this week is a free jazz concert put on by UNLV's Jazz II Ensemble. The performance will be offered at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3 in the Black Box Theater of the Ham Fine Arts Building.

The concert will feature faculty member Rocky Winslow on trumpet and the special guest will be saxophonist Bill Trujillo.

Ariel View- An overview of the Las Vegas Scene

hits you. It's all acoustic and pretty good, too! Wow! Everyone is sitting at their tables completely absorbed in the performers. It's totally incredible. People are actually there to hear the music, not to meet

someone of the opposite (or same) sex. So, what's the story?

A little over two years ago, Paul Summers, Jr of Cries and Whispers moved from Las Vegas to San Francisco. After having a difficult time getting a band started, he found some open-mike stages. That's where anyone can get on stage and perform. It gave him a chance to play, be heard and to hear other musicians. He finally hooked up with others and started a band there.

So, when Summers moved see Asylum pg. 9



Nick Haley/ Rebel Yell

Steve the bartender serves up a sample of Sierra Nevada beer at last Saturday's Brewfest at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Strange brew at first annual Brewfest

Burp. The first thing we noticed when we approached the Las Vegas Convention Center for the first annual Las Vegas Brewfest was the black and white of Las Vegas' finest parked in front. Plans to drive very, very carefully were made right on the spot.

On the way in, one couldn't help but notice the inordinate number of cowboy boots everyone seemed to be wearing.

With little white cards in hand to mark the number of beers consumed, we made our way around the convention center to the tune of "Roll Out the Barrel."

Ah, drinking music. The only thing worse could be "Achy Breaky Heart."

Looking around trying to decide what to drink first, we couldn't help but notice how much beer wasn't present in the nearly 50,000 square feet of floor space that was Brewfest. So we counted. We came up with 30 brands.

Of note, the Vons on Tropicana has over 100 brands of domestic and imported beers. To be fair to the Brewfest, Vons won't let you drink on the premises, and they don't offer taxi service. Of course, police don't lurk outside Vons waiting for people to get behind the wheel, either. You really have to weigh this sort of thing.

We ventured over to the Samuel Adams table, and tasted

that first. It was smooth, cold, and very drinkable. After the Sam was gone, we started to think about

little nuances of the event, like what exactly was going on over at the KOMP-FM table, some sort of long-hair contest?

Why didn't we get a new cup for every tasting?

Where were all the Brewfest lovelies promised to "help us on our way?"

What was up with all the lederhosen?

Why was a sausage with some sourdough bread \$3?

Still, with all these "thoughts," we made our way around the room, accumulating tastings. Of note, Holy Cow brewery makes an ale that is dangerously close to being liquor (four-star stuff, baby), and Sierra Nevada Pale Ale is pretty good stuff, too.

Let's see, expensive food, lot's of beer, festive setting. You might have expected some pretty cerebral conversation, huh?

Nope. Hands down, the Comment of the Evening had to be:

"Where the hell is the Budweiser?"

Brewfest Statistics at a Glance

Fifty-thousand square feet of convention center.

Thirty brands of imported and see Brewfest pg. 8

The Butthorn

Jim Wilson