

'Tender Land' On Stage



SHAUNA MARLETTE/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

The opera department of the University of South Dakota have finished its run of Aaron Copeland's opera, The Tender Land, a show that brought smiles and tears to the public of Vermillion.

Tender Thoughts On 'Tender Land'

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

The opera department of the University of South Dakota have finished its run of Aaron Copeland's opera, The Tender Land, a show that brought smiles and tears to the public of Vermillion.

"Basically the family has this teenage daughter who's about to graduate," director Tracelyn Gesteland said of the storyline. "They want her to stay on the farm and she wants to go out into the world and see what there is. This is taking place in the 1930's where a woman going off on her own was just unheard of."

Though times have changed as far as acceptance of feminine independence, there is still plenty for the cast to relate to.

Hannah Lambertz played Laurie Moss, the girl both longing and dreading to leave her farm home.

"I want to move to New York when I graduate," she said. "That's been my plan, but it's scary and I don't know what the future holds. Laurie as a character was very easy to get into and just dive right in. On the opposite end of the spectrum my parents are very supportive and they want me to do what I want to do and that's great."

According to Gesteland, the themes of this particular show run deep enough to tug at many different heart strings.

"It's interesting that there's a lot of ideas that critics and scholars have been floating around about this," she said. "Some see it as a political allegory because it was written in 1954 at the height of McCarthyism. There were some that feel that the character of Grandpa for instance is actually



COURTESY PHOTO: JOANN LAMBERTZ
Hannah Lambertz (Laurie Moss) said the Opera "The Tender Land" held meaning for her as she approaches the end of her time at USD.

representing McCarthy and he distrusts the strangers that come into the story. There's some that claim that because Copeland wrote this show with his lover that they were making some comments about living a closeted life in America as gay men. One character says 'No one can tell me who to love.' That could be a rallying cry for the early LGBT community. People see what they want to see through their own personal experiences and perspectives."

The whole process of putting on the show was a learning experience for the cast, especially Lambertz.

"It was kind of nerve-racking for me," she said. "It was the biggest role I've had in an opera, so, it was really intense. There was a lot of learning to do and balancing that with school work and work was crazy. Working with Dr. Gesteland is always a huge pleasure. She's always organized and to the point. She knows what she wants but she's also very open to the artistic process and I think that's just terrific."

Every show comes with challenges, as well.

"The fact that the role hit so close to home actually might have been the most difficult for me," Lambertz said. "It's a very fine line when you're in a show. You want to use your personal experiences to make the role real but also if you bring too much into it, that can put you in a weird place. It has been a very emotionally draining semester working on this opera. Adding on top of that, that's actually how I feel, all these insecurities. That was probably the toughest part."

According to Lambertz, the end of the show's run is bittersweet.

"It's nice to be done this week being finals," she said. "It's also sad because we've spent an entire semester working towards this. All of that work for two shows. At least we get that."

The reward from the two shows is worth it according to Lambertz.

"We come out and greet the audience after the show and having them still in tears over what just happened on stage and having something to relate to," she said. "I think that is so rewarding to make a difference, even if it is just for that one day in their life."

VHS Theatre Closes 'Still Life With Iris'

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

Students at Vermillion High School (VHS) successfully ran their play, 'Still Life With Iris' last weekend after weeks of preparation.

The cast and crew was comprised of almost 30 students from VHS.

Jacob Ford, playing Mr. Matternot one of the lead roles, said the nerves which come from being under the spotlight never stop him from having fun.

"Once you get going you're kind of lost in the moment," he said. "You forget about being onstage. You're not looking at the audience, you're in your own world. So, it's really easy to get away. Walking out onstage is the hard part, but once you're out there and you're with the characters you're not yourself."

Ford had an extra challenge like several other members of the cast, putting on the show while juggling other extracurricular activities.

"It's been interesting because I'm also playing tennis this spring," Ford said. "I've been trying to balance both of these."

There is a lot of work that goes into one character according to Ford.

"It wasn't until this week that I got to actually sit down and figure out who my character is," he said. "I wish I had more time to do that. I try to figure out a way to walk and some type of voice. When I go out there I don't want to be myself."

Grace Kjelden, playing Iris, had a great time portraying the girl who is determined to discover her past despite having her memory taken after being collected by The Goods, the ruling couple obsessed with perfection.

"Iris was just a really interesting character," Kjelden said. "I really enjoyed getting to discover her. There's just something about her I can relate to."

Relating to your character can be challenging especially to a high school student who might not have personal experience.

"I'm obviously not a father," Ford said, though he pointed out there definitely were aspects of his character he related to. "You have to relate to your character in some way. You need to figure out what they're all about and what they want."

Another challenge is getting your character to sync with the others onstage.

"All the characters are really animated except my character which is much more subtle and a lot deeper," Ford said. "It's interesting trying to figure out the balance between what I'm doing and what everyone else is doing. It's a lot of fun."

The students had a lot of fun onstage and everyone learned valuable lessons.

GOT NEWS?

CALL THE PLAIN TALK AT 605-624-4429

Bringing surgical care to Vermillion.

Board Certified General Surgeon,
Jesse Kampshoff, MD



CLINIC PHYSICIANS *Board Certified



PEDIATRICS
Matthew Krell, MD, FAAP



FAMILY MEDICINE
William Dendinger, MD



FAMILY MEDICINE
Charles Yelverton, MD



FAMILY MEDICINE
Michelle Chaussee, MPAS, PA-C



FAMILY MEDICINE
Amy Fluit, MPAS, PA-C

MAY VISITING SPECIALISTS

AUDIOLOGY

Jason R. Howe, MS, FAAA, CCC-A
May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 26 & 28

DERMATOLOGY

James W. Young, DO, FAOCD*
May 14 & 28

EAR, NOSE & THROAT

Patrick J. Collison, MD, FACS*
May 5, 12, 19 & 26

GENERAL SURGERY

Jesse L. Kampshoff, MD*
May 4 & 18

NEPHROLOGY

Byron S. Nielsen, MD*
May 7

OBSTETRICS / GYNECOLOGY

Curtis M. Adams, MD*
May 8, 15, 22 & 29

Jill F. Sternquist, MD, FACOG*
May 6, 13, 20 & 27

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

Jeremy Kudera, MD, ABOS*
May 11

PULMONOLOGY

Lori A. Hansen, MD, FACP, FACC*
May 28

RHEUMATOLOGY

Leann Bassing, MD*
May 19

UROLOGY

George Fournier, Jr., MD, FACS*
May 1 & 15



VERMILLION MEDICAL CLINIC®

101 SOUTH PLUM STREET • VERMILLION, SD 57069

www.VermillionMedicalClinic.com

Please call 605-624-8643 to schedule your appointment today!

Most insurances accepted, including Medicare and Medicaid.

REGULAR CLINIC HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:00AM to 5:00PM



Monday - Friday
5:00PM to 9:00PM