The University of Wyoming
Department of Music
and
Department of Theatre and Dance
present
The Marriage of Figaro
(Le Nozze di Figaro)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO
An Opera in Four Acts**

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
English Version by Ruth and Thomas Martin***
Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING PRODUCTION

Directed by: Frederick Gersten
Conducted by: Valerie Taylor
Chorusmaster: Bruce Bishop
Choreography by: Margaret Stalder
Scenic Design by: Ron Steger
Lighting Design & Technical Direction by: Larry W. Hazlett
Costume Design by: Lee Hodgson
Musical Preparation and Rehearsal Accompanist: Joan Gersten

Director's notes: The libretto of "Figaro" is taken from Beaumarchais' comedy, "Le Marriage de Figaro," the second of three plays which opens with "The Barber of Seville," the subject of Rossini's later opera. Mozart's "Figaro" was premiered in Vienna in 1786, and remains an unsurpassed masterpiece of comedy in music. The character of Cherubino, an adolescent boy, is portrayed by a woman. This is an example of a "pants role," a common operatic convention intended to convey youth.

**There will be ten minute intermissions between acts.

***English translation by Ruth and Thomas Martin used by arrangement with G. Schirmer, Inc., Publisher and Copyright Owner.
CAST

COUNT ALMAVIVA ........................................... Troy Brunke
COUNTESS ALMAVIVA ..................................... Betty Hitchcock
SUSANNA, her chambermaid ......................... Moira Joyce (April 23, 25, 30)
......................................................... Susan Hanselmann (April 27, 29)
FIGARO, valet to the Count ......................... Tom DeWester
CHERUBINO, the Count’s page ...................... Audrey Berger (April 23, 25, 30)
......................................................... Diane Ballard (April 27, 29)
BASILIO, music master in the employ of the Count... David Calkins
DON CURZIO, a judge .................................. Robert Buckardt
MARCELLINA, overseer of the
Count’s household staff .............................. Sonja Knapp
DR. BARTOLO, Marcellina’s former employer .... James Hutson
ANTONIO, the Count’s gardner
and Figaro’s uncle ...................................... David Satterfield
BARBARINA, his daughter ............................ Barbara Carlson (April 23, 15, 30)
......................................................... Susana Brizuela (April 27, 29)
TWO VILLAGE MAIDENS ................................. Dewalea Alsup, Karen Heath,
COUNTRYMEN AND WOMEN, COURT ATTENDANTS:
Dewalea Alsop, Aaron Bahmer, Michelle Benton,
Evan Cowden, Lisa Denke, Sean Finney, Karen Heath,
Joyce Honea, Annie Hudson, Jon Hughes, Terry Pauli,
Perry Wenzel, Shumin Zhang

SOLO DANCERS:
Charlotte Bocquin*, Catherine DiBella,*
Patricia Ryan*, Jenny Wroe

*Denotes Theatre and Dance Scholarship
ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

flutes
Lori Smeltzer
Patricia Walker

oboes
Helene Charlton
Rebecca Kern

clarinets
Anthony Lojo
Anne Guzzo

bassoons
Heather Charlton
Greta Rosen

horns
Barbara Hawman
Karla Forbis

trumpets
Dale Misenhelter
Jill Woodis

timpani
Michael Brown

violin I
Nina Anderson (Concertmistress)
Miho Hashizume
Amanda Tibbs
Kim Knutson (alternate)

violin II
John Begley
Angela Harmala
Rebecca Lennon

viola
Michael Rahn
Jean Ballhorn
Nils Turner

cello
Steven Bom
Christina Swenson
Peter Landeen (alternate)

bass
Christopher Boor

harpsichord
Joan Gersten

THEATRE POLICY

NO FOOD, DRINKS OR SMOKING ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE.
NO PICTURES OR RECORDINGS ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE.
NO CHILDREN UNDER 5 ALLOWED IN THE THEATRE, AND CHILDREN UNDER 13 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.
THE THEATRE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ADMISSION TO LATE COMERS.
NO ONE WILL BE SEATED AFTER THE SHOW HAS Begun.
PLOT SYNOPSIS

The action takes place at the Count's château near Seville, in the 18th Century. The sequence of events occur within a single day.

Act I: The room given to Figaro and Susanna by the Count
Figaro and Susanna are preparing the room they will occupy when they are married. Susanna reveals that the Count is determined to revive an old custom — his right to anticipate the bridegroom on a servant's wedding night. The page, Cherubino, complicates matters by overhearing the Count's advances to Susanna. He is discovered, and banished to Seville. He does not obey however, and remains in the Château.

Act II: The Countess's room
The Countess is meditating on her unhappiness and the grief her husband has caused her. She and Susanna, with Figaro's help, devise a plan to expose the Count's philandering and teach him a lesson. As they dress Cherubino in girl's clothes as part of the deception, the Count unexpectedly returns. Cherubino jumps out of the window to escape. The ensuing ensemble finale is acknowledged to be one of the gems of operatic literature.

Act III: The Count's chambers
Susanna, carrying out the plot to embarrass the Count, apparently accedes to his demands. Marcellina continues her legal suit against Figaro, insisting he repay money he owes her, or marry her instead. It is revealed, to the astonishment of all that Figaro is her long lost son and that Bartolo is the father. Susanna, aided by the Countess, writes a letter to the Count describing the time and place of their supposed meeting later that evening. Their intention is for the Countess, dressed as Susanna, to take her place. A wedding celebration takes place, and Susanna slips the letter to the Count. This is observed by Figaro, who suspects nothing.

Act IV: The garden of the Château, later that evening
The deception is carried out, but Figaro is dismayed, thinking Susanna is indeed being unfaithful to him. Cherubino again complicates the situation by his unanticipated arrival on the scene. The plot is revealed and the Count begs forgiveness from the Countess. It is, of course, granted.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager .......................................................... Mystee Macy
Assistant Stage Manager ................................................. Chontelle Clear*
Light Board Operator .................................................. Pete Simpson*
Master Electrician ..................................................... Ann O’Flannigan
Electricians ............................................................... Dr. Gary Holt, A.J. Hernandez
Master Carpenters ..................................................... Shawn Drury, Maggie Driscoll*, Patrice Pillivant, Jason Morsden
Set Construction/Light Hanging Crew ............................... Scott Little*, Mike Morelli*, Rick Willingham, Vanessa Wilson*, Marta Burton*, Joe Schafer, Connie Carlson, and the Stagecraft Class
Flyman ........................................................................... Shawn Drury
Properties Master ......................................................... Mike Morelli*
Props Running Crew .................................................... Cara Johnson
Wardrobe Master ........................................................... Pam Porter*
Milliner .......................................................................... Catherine DiBella*
Wig Master ..................................................................... Nova Simons
Makeup and Wig Crew .................................................... Catherine DiBella*, Nova Simons
Costume Running Crew .................................................. Anna Wertz*, Christene Upton*
Costume Construction .................................................... Tim Barham, Rick Willingham, Mike Morelli*
House Manager ............................................................ Mike Morelli*
Box Office Crew ............................................................ Marta Burton*, Catherine DiBella*
Box Office/Publicity Manager .......................................... Tamara Lehner

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Many, many thanks to these great people and businesses:

Killian Florist for the beautiful flowers in the Box Office during each production, the Laramie High School Drama Club for ushering, and the Mini Dome Mall for their continued support.

We would like to express sincere gratitude to Mr. Steve’s Rent to Own for the loan of the couch, chair, and tables used for the set of BEYOND THERAPY. Thanks to House at Pooh Corner for their contribution to THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.

We would also like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their assistance and support throughout the entire 1988-89 season: Leigh Selting, Jennifer Durer, Nancy McKinney, Kevin Yale Vernon, Alice Pasewark, Jim Barbero, Gail White, Alan and Pat Kirkland, Bill Latady, Alice McColloch and the Laramie Women’s Civic League, Mary Lou Mackay and Mackay’s Gifts, House at Pooh Corner, John Robrok and the U.W. Art Department, Center Pharmacy, Brother’s Pharmacy, My Hero, Foster’s County Store, The University of Colorado at Boulder, Richmond Ballet, Sweetwater Performing Arts Guild, Faded Rose, and Ann’s Pawn Shop.

With this production of THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO the University of Wyoming Theatre completes its 42nd season. We would like to take one more opportunity to recognize all the friends of our department for the support given us over the years. With your help, we will continue our tradition of quality theatre in Laramie! We thank the merchants and people of the community, and especially the following patrons of our theatre:

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BLACK COMEDY by Peter Shaffer June 14-17
Imagine a rather flaky artist, his former flame and his current fiance, her formidable father, a tipsy but teetotaling spinster, a fussy antiques dealer, an electrician and the millionaire he's mistaken for all stumbling around an apartment during a power outage. The catch is, when the characters are in the dark (which is most of the time), the lights come up onstage and the audience see everything, but when the characters are in the light, the stage goes to black. This completely witty and totally slapstick comedy is a perfect beginning for the season.

PACK OF LIES by Hugh Whitemore June 28-July 1
This dynamic and engrossing story is taken from the true-life experiences of an ordinary middle-class couple in England who are suddenly coerced by Scotland Yard into helping to trap suspected soviet spies in their neighborhood who may turn out to be their best friends. An award-winning play, also chosen for a HALLMARK HALL OF FAME in recent years, PACK OF LIES deals with the morality of lying — whether for profit, for one's country, or to one's friends.

THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940 July 12-15
by John Bishop
This comedy is a "nonstop barrage of laughter" as a group of show biz types are trapped by a winter blizzard in a mansion literally crawling with secret passages. Naturally there's a murderer loose — and enough twists and turns of plot to make the audience wonder if those assembled — at least those who aren't killed off — will ever find the real villain. The playwright's irreverent wit in this biting satire of the corny thrillers of Hollywood's heyday never fails to entertain.

DANCERS by Michael Grady July 26-29
This script was a recent Winner of the American College Theatre Festival Playwriting Award, and deservedly so. DANCERS is a warm, humorous and poignant story of a young man who befriends a somewhat looney elderly lady at an old folks' home, and encounters the hostility of her roommate, a belligerent old man with something bad to say about everybody. This comedy with rare and real emotion at its heart is theatre at its best!