

Feb. 4 1976

620

AMERICA LAUGHS

A Bicentennial Production



February 4-7, 1976

Subal Theatre

8:15 p.m.

Boise State University
Department of Theatre Arts
presents

"America Laughs"

An Original Entertainment in Celebration of the American Bicentennial
Compiled and Edited by Dr. Robert E. Ericson



Jody
Burton



"Spike"
Ericson



Stacy
Ericson



Dave
Farnsworth

The Players



Jon
Irwin



Jan
Logan



Bill
Peterson



David
Six

The titles of selections to be performed and sung are not listed for a number of reasons. The cast members are alternating nights on some selections and as this program goes to the printer it is beginning to look as if the program context may vary from night to night. We are all having such a good time playing around with it that we just may continue our alterations throughout the run. Suspense is a good theatrical device, so be in suspense as to what's coming next. You can't read in the dark anyway.

Production Staff

Stage Director	Robert Ericson
Assistant Director	Stacy Ericson
Scene Designer	Elizabeth Streiff
Costume Designer	Tam Cudd
Lighting Designer	Eric Bischoff
Stage Manager	Seelye Smith
Publicity	Dan Peterson
Box Office	Peggy Streiff
House Manager	Joel Farmer

Production Crews

Scenery

Student Employees: Jon Irwin,
 Marv Cock, Bruce Richardson.
 Members of Theatre Arts 118:
 Technical Theatre

Costuming

Student Employees: Nancy Harms
 and Tam Cudd

Lighting

Eric Bischoff (head)
 Trish Coonts

Theatre Arts Staff

Robert E. Ericson, B.S., M.A., Ph.D.	Chairman and Director
Charles E. Lauterbach, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.	Associate Director
Frank Heise, B.A., M.A.	Designer
Larry West, B.A., M.F.A.	Guest Director
Delores Ringer, B.A., M.F.A.	Guest Designer
Roger Bedard, B.A., M.F.A.	Designer*
Del Corbett, B.A., M.F.A.	Associate Director*
Carol Spafford	Secretary

**on leave 1975-76 season*



Green Room Gossip

A Note on Tonight's Production

Work began on finding and copying material representative of American humor many months ago. It became apparent quite early that the problem was not going to be finding material, but deciding what material to use. When rehearsals began we had over four and a half hours of selections, not including songs. With great pain we discarded piece after piece and author after author. Screams of anguish arose as cast members saw favorite selections being pared away. That which is left cannot truly represent all aspects of what has made this country laugh in the last two hundred years. We think it does reveal, however, the **type** of humor that has been most popular with the greatest number of people. As might be expected, much of it falls in the category of "folk" humor, though the literary is represented with material from such divergent sources as Mark Twain and Dorothy Parker. The fact that we tend to laugh the hardest when laughing at ourselves is quite noticeable throughout. The research involved in the preparation of tonight's program also revealed that humor in writing, tale-telling, and music has been an important part of American life since before we became a nation. It has, perhaps, saved us from taking ourselves too seriously; that is, of course, as healthy for a nation as it is for an individual. We are, however, not here tonight to instruct you, but to entertain you. Please feel free to laugh out loud "right here durin' the meetin'."

Robert E. Ericson

Special Note: The grand opening of the Special Events Center is planned for March 10-13. The feature production will be the musical "Celebration," a joint effort of the departments of music and theatre arts.