

NEWS

The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

for immediate release
February 25, 1976

for further information
Judy Annis, 866-6128

The play that catapulted its author Bertoldt Brecht to the forefront of German dramatists and, overnight, made the reputation of its musical composer Kurt Weill opens March 4 for a five-night stand at The Evergreen State College.

"The Threepenny Opera", considered playwright Brecht's greatest success, will be performed nightly, beginning at 8 o'clock, through March 8 by a 22-student cast under the direction of Evergreen Faculty Member Ainara Wilder. The saucy tunes which shocked theatergoers in 1928 and delight audiences today will be performed under the direction of Faculty Musician Donald Chan.

Admission to the productions, set in the Daniel J. Evans Library Theater, is \$2 for general public; \$1 for students. Tickets are available now at Yenney's Music in Olympia and the College Bookstore.

The play, set in London in 1838, is presented by the Evergreen Live and Recorded Coordinated Studies program. The three-act musical first appeared on the Berlin stage where it was viewed as a "universal blasphemy" -- a critique not only of society, but of drama in general and the opera in particular.

Based on an 18th century beggar's opera, the play stars Macheath (known in modern music as Mac the Knife), a defender of the oppressed who revels in an immoral system which enables him to raise himself by illegal methods to a position of wealth and honor.

Described as a "mixture of wit, facetious clowning, brash popular music, occasional sharp pricking of audience conscience and ultimate vagueness and irresponsibility", the extremely popular musical will feature Evergreen students Walter Hilton as Macheath; Linda Cox as Polly Peachum; Paul Bigley as Mr. Peachum; Margaret Simms as Mrs. Peachum; Cheryl

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Dick Nichols, Director
Information Services

Wickland as Jenny; and Daniel Deprez as the street singer.

Other members of the cast include: Geoffrey Alm, Carla Becker, Mark Blumenfeld, Mark Bullis, Carolin Currier, James Kahle, Colleen Kennedy, Zachary Kittell, David Larsen, Thomas Lindsey, Michael McGalliard, Tess Martinez, Kevin Phillips, Brent Ray, Clark Sandford, and Laurel White.

Choreography is under the direction of Faculty Dancer Pam Schick, set design by stage technician Denny Kochta, and costume design by Mal Pina Chan.

SPECIAL RADIO RELEASE

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Macheath, famed in contemporary music as Mac the Knife, will stroll across The Evergreen State College Library Theater March 4, through 8 in the college's Winter Quarter production of the classic musical "The Threepenny Opera".

Presented by Evergreen's Live and Recorded Coordinated Studies Program, the three-act musical satire will be performed nightly, beginning at 8 o'clock. Admission is \$2 for general public; \$1 for students.

A 22-member student cast, directed by Evergreen Faculty Member Ainara, will present the musical which catapulted its author Bertoldt Brecht to the forefront of German playwrights when it premiered in Berlin in 1928.

The extremely popular musical, which also established the reputation of composer Kurt Weill, is under the musical direction of Faculty Musician Donald Chan, with choreography by Faculty Dancer Pam Schick, set design by stage technician Denny Kochta and costume design by Mal Pina Chan.

Tickets are available at Yenney's Music in downtown Olympia, and the College Bookstore.

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Dick Nichols, Director
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