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MASQUERS EXTEND PLAY
AND REHEARSE MUSICAL

"Hay Fever," the Noel Coward comedy that opened the University of Montana Masquer summer theater season, appears headed for a record run as it continues to play to packed houses. Originally slated to close Sunday (July 3), the play is being held over by popular demand for additional performances Thursday through Sunday, July 7-10 at 8:30 p.m. in the Masquer Theater.

S. Joseph Nassif, associate director of UM summer theater and director of the stage saga of the zany Bliss family, is kept happily hopping with one show on the boards and another waiting in the wings. "Hay Fever" moves out of the Masquer Theater July 10, and "The Bartered Bride," also directed by Nassif, moves in to the University Theater July 13.

"The Bartered Bride," the Bedrich Smetana opus guaranteed to delight all lovers of musical comedy - that is, everybody - is equally appealing to children and adults. A matinee for the former is scheduled at 2:30 p.m. July 13 and performances for the latter are set at 8:30 p.m. July 14-17; but the management has no objection to the former and the latter intermingling at any performance.

Marilyn Zschau, who toured last season with the Metropolitan Opera National Company, has been imported from New York to sing the leading role of Marie.

(more)
Cast in other principal parts are Lee Mathews, Sunburst, as Jenik; James Selway, Dillon, Kecal; Esther England, New Plymouth, Idaho, Ludmila; Doug Manning, Kalispell, Krusina; James Terrell, Billings, Micha, and Missoulians Doug Dunnell as Vasek; Lindy Porter James, Hata; Susie Volkel, Esmeralda; Dennis Craig, the director, and Don Collins, the Indian.

Supplying the musical direction of this aggregation of vocal talent is Prof. John Lester, who will also conduct the 35-member chorus, which is made up of Missoula townspeople ranging from children of 6 to grandparents. Miss England is assisting Prof. Lester with the chorus.

Dr. David Whitwell is conductor of the 60-piece orchestra.

Assisting Nassif with the stage direction are Les Hankinson and Michele MacMillan. Stage managers are Fred Norman and Nathan Nassif, and the accompanist is Fay Buness. Dana Carter is choreographer.

The production is designed by Richard H. James Jr., director of summer theater at the University.

Specially priced season tickets admitting holders to all four Masquer summer productions and tickets at regular prices for individual shows are available at the box office, according to James. The box office (243-4581) is open from noon to 5 p. m. daily and remains open until curtain time on the dates of performances.