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Joanna Lester returns to University of Montana to star in "The Apple Tree"

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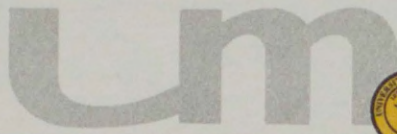
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JOANNA LESTER RETURNS TO UM
TO STAR IN "THE APPLE TREE"

MISSOULA--

During the past six years Joanna Lester, a Montana native and former Miss America contestant, has been busy.

She has starred in a number of musical comedies and operas throughout the world; she has performed on a number of television shows, and one and a half years ago she took time out to marry Bruce Sievers, who is now studying toward his doctorate in political philosophy at Stanford University.

"Montana will always be our home," commented Miss Lester. Joanna, a native of Missoula and her husband, Bruce, have returned to this western Montana city for the summer.

Joanna is studying with her teacher and father, John L. Lester, a University of Montana music professor. She will star in the UM Masquer Summer Theater production, "The Apple Tree," scheduled for July 31 and Aug. 1-3.

Both Joanna and Bruce have been anxious to return to their native Montana to enjoy the mountains and Flathead Lake. "There are lots of exciting places in the world, but Montana has something which draws us back," says Joanna. They enjoy the outdoors, sports and spending time with their families. Sievers' parents are Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Sievers, Skiddoo Lane, Flathead Lake.

When Joanna was younger she exhibited a natural talent for both singing and dancing. She began studying ballet at the age of 10. At 14 she performed her premiere ballet at the University Theater on the Missoula campus.

During high school she maintained an exceptional gradepoint average along with her wide variety of activities. She was graduated from Missoula County High School in 1959, ranking third in a class of 373.

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JOANNA LESTER RETURNS TO UM--2

Joanna appeared professionally for the first time with the Virginia City Players, Virginia City, when she was 17 years old.

Joanna was very active as an undergraduate student at UM. She was a member of Mortar Board, a senior women's honorary; Jubileers, a UM singing group, and Opera Workshop, a laboratory study where practical experience is gained in singing while acting. She was also affiliated with Kappa Kappa Gamma social sorority.

In 1961, Joanna won a \$1000 scholarship for ranking in the top 10 in the Miss America Pageant at Atlantic City, N.J. Representing her home state, ^{Joanna} Montana, placed first in the talent competition.

Since she left Missoula six years ago to pursue a career in show business Joanna has met with constant and overwhelming success. When she was still a senior at UM she vacationed for a short time in New York City and won a place with the Ray Charles Singers on the Perry Como Show.

Since that time she has made appearances all over the world. Her performances have drawn approving notices from critics, who have termed her, "lively and lovely," "beautiful and talented" and "simply marvelous."

One critic has said, "Joanna Lester electrifies the audience. A former Miss Montana, she has an indescribably exciting singing voice with a catch in it, stage presence, and acting and comic flair. She should have her name in lights."

Priscilla, Joanna's sister, and Priscilla's husband, Ron Bottcher, singer for the Metropolitan Opera Co. in New York City, are also staying at the John Lester home this summer.

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