

Immediate Release

UMD NEWS SERVICE  
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Duluth--- A musical production such as UMD's "Carnival" sometimes calls for more than the regular rehearsals.

For four UMD students it has also meant learning magic, getting acquainted with a boa constrictor and spending some 50 hours making puppets.

The play will be presented at 8 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday (Feb. 28-Mar.2) in Old Main Auditorium, 23rd Ave. E. and 5th St. It is the story of Lili, a young woman who wishes to join a carnival.

Gregory Ham, Aitkin, has been practicing magic tricks since the beginning of January. He plays Marco, the magician, in the production -- a part requiring him to turn matches into carnations, pull cigarettes out of the air and take a shirt off a fully dressed man.

Directing Ham has been Mary Ann Evenocheck, Cambridge. In order to obtain information on the tricks, she has called magazines, talked to local magicians and visited magic shops in Duluth, Minneapolis and Cleveland.

A puppet show plays an important part in the story. The four puppets in the show are the result of over 50 hours of work by Mrs. Mabel Persch, Duluth. She began making them early in the winter quarter.

One of the more exciting parts in the play is that of Olga, the snake charmer, played by Sandra Hardwig of Littlefork. One of the snakes she "charms" is a live boa constrictor owned by the UMD Biology Department.

"The snake is supposed to be gentle, but Olga must know how to keep it from getting excited," explained Fred Ollerman, director of "Carnival."

Miss Hardwig has spent several weeks learning how to handle the snake correctly.

The play will feature 22 musical numbers and a 17-piece orchestra under the direction of Willard Oplinger, assistant professor of music. Mrs. Lorie Langdon, instructor of music, is in charge of vocal direction.

The lead part of Lili is played by Christine Damberg, Virginia.