

SPECIAL TO MATT CRAWFORD
DULUTH VISITOR

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DULUTH -- The popular, fast-paced hit Broadway musical "Bye Bye Birdie" will be presented by the UMD Theater Nov. 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Old Main Auditorium under the direction of speech instructor Fred Meitzer.

The cast of 40 singers, dancers and actors will offer 8:30 ~~pm~~ p.m. performances the first three evenings. On Nov. 4 (Sunday), a 2:30 p.m. matinee has been scheduled.

All choreography and dance instruction falls to Kathleen O'Brien, presently of Chisholm, who gained her experience as a Broadway performer under reknown choreographers such as Michael Kidd.

Two of the musical's better known songs are Put On a Happy Face and A Lot of Living To Do. Charles Strouse ~~was~~ composed the music and Lee Adams wrote the lyrics.

David Ode, Duluth, takes the role of Albert Peterson, manager of Almaelous Music Inc. Susan Schaeffer, Duluth, plays his faithful secretary Rose Alvarez. Dick Van Dyke and Chita Rivera filled the original Broadway roles.

When Albert and Rose ~~discover~~ discover their chief property, rock 'n roll singer Conrad Birdie (Ken Lamppa, Embarrass), is about to be drafted, they devise a plan to save Al/aelou from bankruptcy.

The plans calls for Conrad to introduce his new song "One Last Kiss" on TV and to plant that last kiss on a loyal fan picked at random. The selection of Kim McAfee (Susan Whittaker, Silver Bay) of Sweet Apple, Ohio disrupts the lives of a number of people.

Dad McAfee (Dick Hossalla, Duluth), Mom McAfee (Sandra Mason, Duluth) and Randolph (Christopher Hayes, Duluth), Kim's young brother, don't like the idea ~~at~~ at all.

The proposed kiss also upsets Kim's new steady Hugo Peabody (John

Dinan, Duluth), but her other teenage friends, especially Ursulla Merkle (Louise Quast, Duluth) are excited ~~mayungix~~ beyond belief.

Finally, the unexpected arrival of Albert's over-protective mother, Mae Peterson (Diane Kupersmith, Duluth), nearly results in complete disaster, but Albert and Rose spirit themselves and Conrad out of town. They vow to give up the music business and Albert takes a job teaching English out west.