

Barn Theatre to stage its third production of 'Hair'

AUGUSTA — The rock musical *Hair* opens July 18 at the Barn Theatre for a two-week run through July 30.

This is the third time around for *Hair* at the Barn, which gave the famous musical its first-ever summer-stock production in 1973 and another in 1975.

As in both earlier Barn productions of *Hair*, the full stage will be revealed as part of the production design. Lighting instruments and backstage structure are in full view, with the orchestra also on stage. Steel scaffolding is the primary scenic element and a new sound system — designed especially for the show's rock-concert nature — has

been installed.

The cast of 33 will be headed by Scott Burkell as Claude, Joe Aiello as Berger, Jeff Lettiere as Wood, Sandy Mulvihill as Sheila — all members of the Barn's resident acting company — and Chicago performers E. Faye Butler as Dionne and Jeff Coopwood as Hudd.

Butler is playing the same role she played in the recent Chicago Vic Theatre production of *Hair*.

Darius de Haas, another member of the Chicago cast, has been added to the Barn's production. A featured member of "The Tribe," he sings the show's opening number *Aquarius*.

The Barn's original production of *Hair* in 1973 was the third show in the theater's history to run for four weeks.

When the musical first hurtled onto the Broadway scene in 1967, it created the greatest theatrical explosion to be seen in years. It was the first free-form "message" rock opera and addressed itself blatantly and irreverently to the mores, codes of behavior, hangups and puritanical traditions that had ruled much of American society for decades.

On this level, *Hair* is rooted in relation to its time, with its hippies and Vietnam protest — but the show has a core that makes it ring

true today — its protest against perceived prejudice and injustice. An obvious parallel is the recent student uprising in China.

Four of the show's songs — *Aquarius*, *Let the Sunshine In*, *Hair* and *Good Morning, Sunshine* are established in international musical repertory. The score is the work of Galt MacDermot.

Hair opened at Broadway's Bit-

more Theatre in April 1968 and its yearly grosses — more than \$28 million — were the greatest in theatrical history.

Brendan Ragotzy is directing the Barn production. Charles Misoyve is choreographer and James Douglas Kent is music director.

Performances will be at 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Saturdays and 5

p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$14 Tuesdays through Thursdays and for the 5 p.m. Sunday shows; \$16.50 on Fridays and for both Saturday performances.

Meanwhile, the British farce *Run For Your Wife* continues through its final performance on July 16. The new comedy *Steel Magnolias* is scheduled to follow *Hair* and open Aug. 1.



Cast members of *Hair* prepare for the Barn Theatre's upcoming production. Top row, from left: Marcia Vliet, Scott Burkell, Joe Aiello, Nikki Nelson, Jeff Coopwood; leaning center, Sandy Mulvihill; kneeling, from left, Anne Harris, Denis Jones, Gaby Michel and Jeff Lettiere.

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