

Plaza Suite Cast Announced

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The next production of Starkville Community Theater, Neil Simon's comedy "Plaza Suite," will be presented at 8:00 p.m. February 24-27 in the auditorium of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University.

Described as "the grandest Neil Simon play of all," "Plaza Suite" is actually three plays in one. The work tells the stories of a marriage falling apart at the seams, a fling between a Hollywood movie producer and his childhood sweetheart, and a father and mother who cannot agree on the best way to get their bride-to-be daughter out of the bathroom.

John Graef, a seasoned SCT member, will direct the comedy. He has been involved in numerous productions as director, actor, and production manager. Graef is a professor of mathematics at MSU.

The cast is made up of David Cook, Barbara Bouchillon, Jack Carroll, Larry Alred, Kathy Loftin, Monroe Dewberry, Betty Frnka, Frances Heller, Bob Wolverton, and Susan Holik.

Carroll and Bouchillon play the beleaguered married couple in the first act of the play—Karen and Sam Nash. Carroll, coordinator of the Mississippi Energy Extension Center at MSU, has been involved in many SCT productions. Bouchillon is making her acting debut. She is a housewife, mother, and substitute teacher in the city schools.

Cook, who plays the bellhop in one act and the bridegroom in the final scene, is a veteran SCT performer, most recently as Dr. Einstein in "Arsenic and Old Lace." He is a graduate student at MSU.

Wolverton and Heller appear

as the parents of the bride, played by newcomer Susan Holik. Wolverton, who is vice president for academic affairs at MSU, has appeared in four SCT productions and is currently president of the group. A veteran actress, Heller has also appeared in four plays and directed SCT's production of "Bell, Book, and Candle." She is an English instructor at Wood Junior College.

Holik makes her first SCT appearance in "Plaza Suite." The Jackson native is an interior designer. The role as the bride will be a dress rehearsal for her real wedding in June.

Dewberry, who is an accountant in the MSU comptroller's office, returns to the theater as Hollywood producer Jesse Kiplinger in the second playlet. Frnka, a housewife and mother who is active in community and university affairs, plays Kiplinger's sweetheart, Muriel Tate. Both acted in "Bell, Book, and Candle," while Frnka also performed in "You Can't Take It With You."

Alred and Loftin make their first stage appearances in the upcoming comedy, Alred playing the waiter and Loftin playing Jean McCormick. Alred is director of respiratory therapy at the Golden Triangle Regional Medical Center in Columbus. Loftin is from Jackson and is an information specialist in public relations for the College of Veterinary Medicine at MSU.

Tickets for the comedy will be available at the door prior to each evening's performance.

