September 26, 2011

Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

Broadway musicals have always been crowd pleasers when performed at Riverside City College. "Oklahoma!", the venerable Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, has been presented at RCC at least three times.

In 1958, the production was staged in the Quadangle’s Little Theater. It featured Bert Wilson as “Curley” and Barbara Prock as “Laurey”. The show also presented RCC student Bud Tedesco (RCC Assistant Professor, Film Television & Video 1991-2011) in the role of “Slim”.

In a May 22, 1958 “Tiger Times” review of the show by Vince Lawton, Tedesco won praise for his performance because he “bounded over the stage like Peter Pan”.

The 1987 production was presented by the Riverside Civic Light Opera in Landis Auditorium and starred Bill Odien and Renee Jensen, née Green, as the two leads.

On Friday September 23, 2011, Performance Riverside’s current production of “Oklahoma!” began its run in the Landis Performing Arts Center. The musical continues this coming weekend with performances on September 30th and October 1st and 2nd.

“Curley” is being played by Bryan Vickery and “Laurey” is portrayed by Emily Lopez.

Photo Box 1 shows the two 1958 leads and an excerpt from the “Tiger Times” review.

Photo Box 2 is a review of the 1987 production from the October 27, 1987 issue of the RCC “Viewpoints” student newspaper.

Photo Box 3 shows the 2011 leads. Special thanks to Matthew Neves, Producer / Artistic Director (Performance Riverside) and Ralph Ybarra (photographer) for providing the 2011 photo.

It is 4 years and 24 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.
The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981 - A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library.

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