

Christmas

Dances of the Ukraine begin with the coquettish Shawl Dance and progress to the Hopak, the most spectacular of folk dances with its acrobatics and feats of endurance.

In the dance suite Vaiven Uziahu, expressive of Israel here and now, there are no set traditional forms of movement but barefoot, unfettered freedom as the dancers circle and weave in lines, expressing the boldness and vigor of a courageous people.

If you should attend "Christmas Around the World" tonight, you would also see a Ribbon Dance from China, Philippine Tinikling, and a Japanese flower hat dance. There is a suave and sophisticated Spanish Flamenco and a pretty Czechoslovakian turning dance, Vrtak, tucked into a festival from all countries which includes dances of Scotland, Yugoslavia and Armenia.

The opening performance was plagued by some little starting on the wrong foot incidents — dropped sticks, snapping flag poles, caught ribbons, and like mishaps which come under the heading of "That's how the cookie crumbles." However the whole troupe is much too professional in attitude to be put off stride by minor mishaps which almost inevitably befall when so large a group performs.

Special credit must go to Delynn Peay, in charge of the hundreds of beautiful costumes, a major production in themselves. Projections of Christmas scenes and pictures from the Folk Dancers' European tours add much, but a means should be sought to prevent the bright front lights from dissipating their effect.

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'New Beginning' inspiring musical

"A NEW BEGINNING," South High School, 1875 South State St., 8 o'clock tonight. Tickets at box office.

By Howard Pearson
Deseret News
theater editor

"A New Beginning," a new musical play, is an exceptional theater offering.

It premiered Friday night at South High School and will be presented at 8 tonight for the final time. It's too bad more presentations cannot be scheduled, but the cast is donating its time and further performances are not possible at this time.

Utah's Greek community has contributed time, effort, talent, money to the new musical which, in a way, is an answer to presentation of "Life More Sweet Than Bitter," for Jews in Utah.

"A New Beginning" has some musical numbers that are light, charming, inspiring, toe-tapping and fun, in turn. The cast includes some

changes of scenes would correct both of these blemishes and contribute to a production that would rival even "Fiddler on the Roof."

Paul D. Maritsas, a Salt Lake real estate executive, has written the book, music and lyrics. He rates plaudits on all points. His directing team of Goldie Kasapakis, Toni Mae Dwyer and Kathy Mannos also rates praise. So does the vocal consultant, Billie Poulos. Also, Katherine Gygi for set design and costumes; Teddy Floor Arnold for choreography and Tom Harris for orchestra arrangements deserve praise.

The voices are exceptional in many cases. Especially noteworthy are those of George Pappas, Steve Oneida, Mike

exceptional in furthering the story. In this number, three boys, who are leaving their native Greece for America, hear a con man sing about a contract for them to work when they get to America and to contribute part of their salary to him.

"You're On Your Way to America" is a rousing, patriotic number that set the audience last night to tapping. Then came more — "Oh, Patrida," a pleasing number; "Mama, Dear Mama," a charming selection in which the story is furthered by the lyrics; "Love Theme," "My Boy," "I Want to Get Married" and a closing love song that is truly inspiring.

The story tells of the three Greek boys who travel to the United States because they have heard the streets are filled with gold. They decide to move to Utah. The author has written some humorous references about Utah in several scenes.

When the boys get to



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The cast includes some voices who can sing them. They are easy to listen to and some could hit a record chart.

The play has a couple of drawbacks that could easily be corrected. It runs about a half hour to 45 minutes too long and it has a couple of slow spots. Cutting the overture and tightening up the musical passages and

Stage review

Katsan, Maria Oneida, Charlie Paulos, Chrissy Paulos and Basil Anton.

"My Love," sung beautifully by Steve and Andrea, starts the list of melodies. It's followed by a funny "Party of the First Part," which is

When the boys get to Utah, they want wives, but they want wives from home and send for them. The marriage scene takes place to the accompaniment of funny moments, but also inspiring ones. Although the marriage ceremony speaks of "Til death do you part," the lines for the performers to speak to their brides talk about living together eternally.

Several touching moments take place near the end of the play. One of the Greeks (now grown old) tells his son, who is graduating from college: "Make something of yourself. Listen to your father. He only wants the best for you." Charlie Paulos, who has this part, gives the lines with fire, then stops, realizing that his father had spoken the same lines to him years before.

An appealing scene near the end has Paulos telling his wife, Chrissy Paulos, how much he has loved her over the 55 years they have been married. He tells her how much she has meant to him, and then she leaves for a hospital, where their great-grandson is to be born. What follows then is touching and emotionally draining, but the inspiring moments have already paved the way for the ending.

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