

HAPPENINGS

UCF opens *Lysistrata*

Controversial anti-war statement debuts tonight

EMILY JANE SCOTT
Staff Writer

It was March of 2003, nearly two years ago now. Protests against a possible war on Iraq were just beginning.

Protesters had been marching on D.C. and in the streets of New York in the prior two months. Filmmakers got involved, musicians jumped on board and celebrities spoke out for the anti-war movement. However, at the same time, a more organized, underground project was taking place in the world of theatre.

It centered around and was named after the Greek comedy by the playwright Aristophanes and was known simply as *The Lysistrata Project*. On March 3, 2003 (3/3/03), the play was per-



COURTESY BEN WILSON

Based on one-third of an epic series by Aristophanes, *Lysistrata* was no small undertaking for Theater UCF. The play debuts tonight at the UCF Conservatory Theater at 8 p.m.

formed in 1,029 theatres across the world. Not only was this an incredible showing for the anti-war movement at the time, it was also an incredible showing for feminists across the world.

Lysistrata is the third and final play in the War and Peace series written by Aristophanes. Taking place in the 21st year of the war of his prior two works, *Lysistrata* focuses on the efforts of Athenian women to bring peace to their lands. Lead by Lysistrata, the women of Athens decide to force their men to cease war on Sparta by making a bold declaration — their men will be denied sexual pleasures until they vote for peace.

Lysistrata instructs her legions to wear their sheerest silks and to “sit prettily” where their men can see them to help make their cause all the more transparent.

Even in 411 B.C., the Greeks knew that sex sells. Although we’re used to sex selling music, food, television and even sports, here it is can be used for a more noble cause, proving that women can use their “femininity” for higher purposes. Hence, the play and the 2003 project have been adopted by feminists around the world.

A one-woman show by Kathryn Blume, the co-founder of *The Lysistrata*

Project, premiered off-Broadway in fall of 2004. A musical adaptation of *Lysistrata* is also currently in the works.

If you’re interested in seeing what all the fuss is about and seeing if the play comes off as liberal as those who have adopted it, you can catch it at the UCF Conservatory Theatre on campus.

The show will run at 8 p.m. from Jan. 20 to Jan. 30, every evening, with two matinees at 2 p.m. on Jan. 23 and Jan. 30. Ticket prices are \$12.50 for general admission and \$7.50 for students.

For more information, you can call the Conservatory Theatre box office at 407-823-1500.



THE INDIE

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First things first:
WE NEED MUSIC WRITERS.
Our long drought of CD reviews has finally come to an end, and we need people to give all these FREE CDs to.

But you gotta know your stuff. We’re looking for help in indie rock, punk, emo, alternative rock, hip-hop, electronic, folk, whatever...anything the kids are going for these days. If you’re interested in writing CD reviews and/or music features, con-

tact us at indie@ucfnews.com or call the office at 407-447-4555.

Anyway, we honestly don’t have a thing for Paris Hilton, but we’ve done another piece on her new club. Also, Not Just Sex and Cinescene are back from their one-issue hiatus. Slackers.

This issue also marks the conclusion of Matt Hedgecock’s series on Central Florida’s forgotten theme parks. So you better remember them.

— JOHN THOMASON