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Pippin (1984)

Spring 1984

Pippin Press Release

John Garrity

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The Blackfriars Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIPPIN

Singing and Dancing
at the Blackfriars

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Pippin, a musical extravaganza about a naive young man coming to terms with the real world is the subject of the long-running Broadway hit to be presented at the Blackfriars Theatre on the campus of Providence College on February 3-5 and 10-12.

The story of Pippin is conjured up by a colorful troupe of traveling actors lead by a fast-talking, high-stepping master of ceremonies, who leaps forth and promises "a stunning example of magic and merriment."

The book, written by Roger O. Hirson, portrays the starry-eyed prince Pippin's search for his place in the sun. He tries war and finds it thoroughly distasteful. In despair, he turns to his boisterous old grandmother, who sings her philosophy in a rousing comic number called "No Time at All." In it, she advises Pippin to live it up, a course he embarks upon with a vengeance, with the assistance of a bevy of voluptuous dancers.

Pippin's father Charlemagne is seen as a hard-living, hard-praying Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire whose council of war is done as a lively minstrel show. His wife, Pippin's predatory stepmother Fastrada, sings and dances "Spread a Little Sunshine", another of the musical's showpieces composed by Stephen Schwartz, whose credits include the score for the world-acclaimed "Godspell".

Director John Garrity will lead the company through the cheerful anachronisms of the plot that is loosely derived from history, but dances and sings in a modern mode. The choreographer will be Patricia Sharkey, creating dances that range from minstrel-show soft shoe to sultry acrobatics. The semi-commedia dell'arte burlesque costumes will be designed by Mary Farrell, and the lighting will be designed by Jim Eddy. James Ascoli will be musical director for this swinging, youthful parable that will play at the Blackfriars Theatre for six performances on February 3-5 and 10-12.

on the campus of Providence College — Providence, R. I. 02918 — 865-2327