

# 'Can-Can' Comes To Ogdensburg

OGDENSBURG — Cole Porter's "Can-Can," a sassy, saucy musical celebration of romantic turn-of-the-century Paris, is coming to Ogdensburg when a new high-kicking national company production is presented by the Ogdensburg Community Players on Feb. 3.

Curtain time is 8:15 p.m. in the George Hall Auditorium, Ogdensburg Free Academy, with reserved tickets now available at Frank's, the Decorator Corner, 214 Caroline St., or by calling 393-4470.

Cole Porter is undoubtedly one of the most popular song writers of the 20th century. He created some of his most rousing and delightful tunes in "Can-Can," including "I Love Paris," "C'est Magnifique," and "It's Alright with Me."

In addition to "Can-Can," he wrote the scores for shows like

"Kiss Me, Kate" and "Anything Goes," and such unforgettable songs as "Night and Day," "Begin the Beguine," and "My Heart Belongs to Daddy."

Porter's collaborator on "Can-Can" was librettist Abe Burrows, one of the American theater's most successful writers. Burrows' smash hits include "Guys and Dolls," "The Pajama Game," "Silk Stockings," and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." His multifaceted career began in radio and continued into film, television, and the Broadway stage.

Burrows and Porter's "Can-Can" takes place in Montmartre, the "playground" of Paris where life is to be lived to its fullest. One of its most celebrated citizens is La Mome Pistache, proprietress of the Parisian hotspot notorious for its

"scandalous" can-can dancing. Puritanical and over-zealous Judge Aristide Forester appears on the scene to investigate reports of the "shameful" dancing at her cafe. His attempts to abolish the can-can come to an abrupt halt when he falls in love with the seductive Pistache.

Aristide's comic adventures in Montmartre result in a scandal which puts his career in jeopardy. However, Pistache's strength and irrepresible charm help him learn to enjoy life and its simple pleasures — like the can-can.

The story also turns to Claudine, a laundress by day, a can-can dancer in Pistache's cafe by night. Claudine finds herself pursued by two men: Boris, the penniless Bulgarian sculptor whom she loves, and Hilaire Jussac, the unscrupulous art critic who tries to woo her away. In the true spirit of any French farce, this romantic triangle culminates in a hilarious rooftop duel between Claudine's two suitors.

## in the arts

### Concert Series Gets 3 Grants

The Norwood Village Green Concert Series has been awarded three grants from separate sources during the past few weeks.

The concert series has been granted \$3,000 from the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program as administered by the North Country Library System. This is the greatest amount possible in the Decentralization Program, and this is the second consecutive year that the maximum amount has been awarded to the Village Green Concert Series.

In a matching grant with the Village of Norwood, the New York State Division for Youth has awarded the series \$900 for youth programs. These funds will help support the children's programs. Among the children's programs planned for 1987 will be a performance of "Rip Van Winkle" by Das Puppenspiel, Read-A-Loud Theater presenting dramatizations of Newberry and Caldecott Award winning novels, "The Shadow of a Bull," "Drummer Hoff" and "The Strawberry Girl" and a return engagement of "The Clown Conspiracy." Also an appearance by



STEFAN J. RUTEN — The Concord String Quartet will perform a concert on Jan. 27 in Potsdam College's Snell Theater. The group is in residence for the Crane Centennial Year.



GUEST LECTURE — Illustrator John Thompson will present a lecture at 7 p.m. Jan. 20 in Potsdam College's Gibson Gallery. One of his untitled illustrations is shown here.

### Affiliate Artist Series Starts

Bass-baritone Stephen Owen will be the first Alcoa Foundation Affiliate Artist at Potsdam College this spring.

His week-long residency is a collaborative effort by the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley and by Potsdam College.

Owen's schedule includes "informances" at Potsdam College, at elementary schools throughout St. Lawrence County and at libraries and senior citizen centers.

Public "informances" are set for Jan. 27 at 7:15 p.m. at the Massena Memorial Library and Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. in Hosmer Hall.

He will also visit and teach classes at the Waddington Elementary School, the Madrid Elementary School, the Canton Middle School, the Campus Learning

Center, Madison and Jefferson Elementary Schools in Massena, St. Mary's School in Canton and tentatively at the Laurel Terrace Senior Citizen Center in Massena.

Owen sings a varied repertoire of operatic and concert music. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1984-85 and appeared there in 1986 in "Fidelio."

Equally at home in operetta, Owen has performed in Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance," "Ruddigore" and "Iolanthe."

Affiliate Artists sponsors residence and special events to support the career development of exceptionally talented performers while building new audiences and sources of support for the arts.

"Can-Can" is much like turn-of-the-century Paris itself. It is slightly naughty, very delicious, and full of the jubilant lust for life that inspired the spectacular can-can. With a superb score by Cole Porter, and engaging plot by Abe Burrows, extraordinary dancing and brilliantly colorful sets and costumes, "Can-Can" has caused audiences around the globe to exclaim "C'est Magnifique!"

The national company production is being presented by the Ogdensburg Community Players, a voluntary, non-profit, community-based arts organization serving the North Country area with a diverse range of cultural events during the year. Future performances this season will include the national company production of "Fiddler on the Roof" (March 10), and a delightful evening of music from films and the Broadway stage performed by the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra (May 2).

### Illustrator Plans Gallery Lecture

Illustrator John M. Thompson will give a lecture at the Gibson Gallery, Potsdam College, 7 p.m. on Jan. 20.

Thompson's work appears in the current exhibition at Gibson Gallery entitled "Children's Book Illustrations."

An artist whose work is included in the permanent collections of the American Museum of Illustration and the Zimmerli Art Museum of Rutgers University, Thompson has participated in solo and group exhibitions since 1975.

His most recent exhibitions include group shows with the Society of Illustrators.

The Potsdam College lecture is open to the public free of charge.

### Faculty Recital Set

James Madeja, trumpet, and Jane Cryder, piano, will present a Faculty Recital Series concert Jan. 22 at 8:15 p.m. in Sara Snell Theater, Potsdam College.

There is no admission charge for this concert.

### Concord Quartet Opens Season

The Concord String Quartet, the string quartet-in-residence for the Crane Centennial Year, will open the spring season with an all-Beethoven concert Jan. 27 at 8:15 p.m. in Snell Theater.

The Potsdam College concert is open to the public at no charge.

Mark Sokol, violin; Andrew Jennings, violin; John Kochanowski, viola and Norman Fischer, cello, will perform the String Quartet No. 8 in E minor, Opus 59, No. 2 and the String Quartet in C-sharp minor, Opus 131.

The Concord String Quartet began its affiliation with Potsdam College in September 1986. In addition to concert performances, the

### Concord Quartet Opens Season

quartet conducts master classes and lecture/demonstrations at the Crane School of Music and at area schools, when possible.

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### CINEMA 10

**THE GOLD RUSH**  
(U.S., 1924, 135 min.)  
Directed by and starring Charles Chaplin. Also starring Mack Swain, Georgia Hale and Bert Monsey. This is Chaplin's most famous film and sometimes called his greatest comedy. It is the story of a prospector in the Alaska Gold Rush of 1898, full of classic comic scenes. A sentimental farce against a backdrop of snow and ice; and a happy ending.  
Mondays, 7:15 p.m.  
Jan. 26, 1987  
ROXY THEATER  
Main St., Potsdam

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TUES., FEB. 3, 1987  
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GEORGE HALL AUDITORIUM  
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