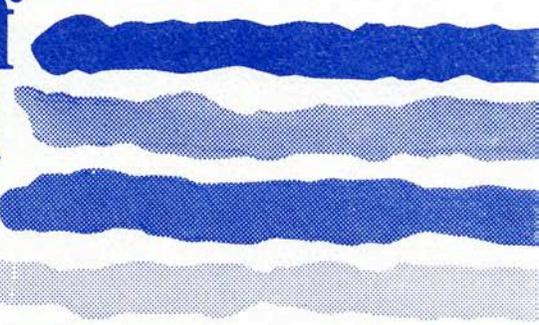


# Banff Festival of the Arts



"THE THREEPENNY OPERA"

by

Bertolt Brecht & Kurt Weill

\* REVISED TWICE  
AUG. 6 + AUG 7

Thursday, August 6, 1981 - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, August 7, 1981 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 8, 1981 - 2:00 p.m.

& 8:00 p.m.

Eric Harvie Theatre



**A Celebration of Young Talent  
May through August 1981**



Hazen J. Sise.....Assistant Stage Manager  
 Dennis W. Moyes.....Assistant Set Designer  
 Becky Brisben.....Assistant Lighting Designer

THE ORCHESTRA:

Dennis Collier.....Trumpet  
 Dennis Walker.....Trumpet  
 Hank Zanboer.....Trombone  
 Jim Chew.....Guitar & Bass  
 Ian Clayton.....Saxophone & Clarinet  
 Cliff Hails.....Saxophone & Clarinet  
 Luc Michaud.....Bass  
 Greg Murray.....Percussion  
 Judith Murray.....Percussion  
 Paul Keenan.....Piano

PROGRAM NOTES

Written in 1928 and premiered in August that year, "The Threepenny Opera" instantly became one of the greatest hits of European Theatre of the '20's; this, despite a catastrophic rehearsal period plagued by sickness and technical problems. It has since enjoyed many commercially successful revivals.

Brecht's cynical satire, like the "Beggars' Opera" by John Gay from which it is derived, attacks the hypocrisy and corruption of the decaying Weimar Republic by giving the aims, ambitions and sometimes even the language of the 'respectable' society to whores, beggars, and thieves. Although set in London, the play is not historically accurate. It is a London of Brecht's imagination - an amalgam of Dickens, Kipling, and Edwardian Imperial splendour, enterprise and poverty. A strong influence on Brecht at this early stage of his career was cabaret and street performance, thus the play's episodic revue quality. In Weill's tonally ambiguous, jazz influenced music, Brecht found the ideal partner for his own tough exuberant writing.

In "The Threepenny Opera", Peachum, the "Beggars' Friend", plans to disrupt the Coronation by a 'Parade of Human Misery' - it is something of a coincidence that in London over the last ten days there have been riots and demonstrations by the unemployed and the poor. At the same time the Royal Family and its entourage have been preparing for Prince Charles' wedding. As MacHeath says, "It is clear proof that the world changeth not".

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Souvenirs of the Banff Festival of the Arts 1981 will be on sale in the foyer during intermission and after the performance. There will also be a cash bar service available.