



Sigmund Snopek, left, composed the music for "One Room Life" a rock theater event starting Wednesday at Omnibus and his partner Byron Wiemann wrote the lyrics. Tickets for this "Couth Youth" production are available at Omnibus in Fish Creek.

Omnibus amphitheater to open with rock musical

Something new in summer entertainment opens at Omnibus Wednesday night.

Steve Kastner, owner and operator of this versatile year around recreational facility, has created a 200 seat outdoor amphitheater at the top of Lone Pine hill. At least that's what the hill used to be called, he says, until the pine tree disappeared.

The newly built stage in Kastner's as yet unnamed bowl will provide the setting for "One Room Life" a rock opera starring Sigmund Snopek III and Ric Gruszczynski. Described as two of the brightest lights in Milwaukee's improvisational theater, this talented duo collaborated on the contemporary musical comedy which Door county audiences will have a chance to preview Wednesday.

Based on the shy-young- maiden meets brash-young-man theme, "One Room Life" will be played on three sets. The principals' respective apartments flank a cabaret (today's "meet market") and with Ric playing the man about town and Tracy Williams his lonely little girlfriend, the couple's growing involvement gives the combo plenty to sing about.

Kastner, who depicts Siggie as "kind of a genius," says he can create an orchestra effect all by himself. "Siggie plays three or four keyboard instruments which are computerized to sound like a full orchestra," Kastner expounds glowingly. "His four piece group is really something to hear."

Byron Wiemann, lyricist and guitarist, is the fourth member of Snopek's brilliant young group and one of the reasons "One Room Life" smacks of authenticity. Its story is based on Wiemann's personal European travel journals. Altogether there are 20 persons traveling with Snopek's fledgling road show and 16 of that number fill technical roles.

The four entertainers, while admittedly limited in number, aren't handicapped by this small show of force. According to Kastner, they can impersonate an entire chorus. Their conceptualized music, he adds, tells "little stories" as lyrically and graphically as a full orchestra could do.

Kastner's outdoor amphitheater, while not visible from Highway 42, is easily reached. A graveled road leads straight to the top of the hill and from there it's only a short walking distance to the bowl itself.

The latter, he points out, is surrounded by trees and commands a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside and bay. Kastner eventually plans to provide seating space for between 200 and 300 spectators.

"One Room Life" is a two hour musical drama featuring 20 songs and excellent acting, Kastner says. He describes the music as being current, more fluid than rock and roll, and much more symphonic.

Lone Pine Hill itself rears 225 feet in the air and provides a perfect setting for a sheltered bowl. "It's pleasant at the top,"

Kastner muses. "It should be a perfect place to introduce Siggie's incredible music.

"Even people who aren't late night people" enjoy Sigmund Snopek III and his musicians," he adds. "They appeared at Omnibus last Labor Day and packed the house. Nobody wanted to leave."

Following Wednesday's performance, Kastner says the combo will undoubtedly swing into a late night jam session at Omnibus. "They'll be introducing a new dimension in summer entertainment," their promotor says proudly. "You have to hear them to appreciate them."

Wednesday, July 20 is opening night but "One Room Life" will be shown nightly through Saturday, July 24 and from July 26 through July 30. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m.

Omnibus is located in Fish Creek.