

Berlin Players Offer Rock Musical Production

By MICHAEL HOLDEN

BERLIN — "Story Theatre," a rock musical for all ages, is the most polished and energetic production to date by the Broadstreet Musical Stage, the summer stock theatre in Berlin.

Based on stories from Aesop's Fables and Grimm's Fairy Tales, the musical presents 10 tales in all. There is no plot as such, although human greed and foibles provide a common thread among the stories.

"The Fisherman and His Wife" is the Show's opening tale about a poor fisherman and his greedy wife.

The fisherman, played by Brian Miller, catches a flounder. The fish promises the man a wish if he will return the fish to the sea. The fisherman, aware of his wife's desires, asks for a nice little cottage.

When he returns home, he finds his wife (Pat Tompkins) in a brand new cottage, complete with a well-stocked pantry. He is delighted and tells his wife that now they can live happily ever after. To which she replies, "I will think about it."

She subsequently sends the fisherman back to the sea to ask the flounder for a stone castle. Next she wants to be king. Then she wants to be Pope.

THE FLOUNDER grants each of these wishes. But the wife remains dissatisfied. So she sends the fisherman to ask the flounder to make her Lord of the Universe.

Even the flounder is stunned by the audacity of this request. The fish refuses it and sends the man home. There he finds his wife and the old hovel where they lived at the story's outset.

Another fable features John Bean III and Anthony Campbell in the "Two Crows."

One crow finds a mussel on the beach, but is unable to break it open to get the meat inside. The second crow suggests that the first take the mussel up in the air and drop it on the ground to crack it open.

Mr. Bean and Mr. Campbell combine their talents in mime and movement to portray the first crow flying higher and higher so that the mussel will crack when it hits the ground.

Which of course happens. But the first crow is 14,000 feet in the air, so it takes him a while to reach the ground. Meanwhile, the second crow, in the role of administrator, has taken mussel and has disappeared. So it goes.

OTHER STORIES include such familiar fairy tales as "The Golden Goose," "Henny Penny," and "The Bremen Town Musicians." All of these showcase the talents and energy of the Broadstreet company.

The music includes tunes by Bob Dylan, George Harrison, and Country Joe McDonald. John Hoag on guitar, Karen Van Gilse on piano, and Fran Franklin on flute provide the right combination of light and

happy music to complement the tales.

"Story Theatre," which ran July 24-27, is also scheduled from July 31 to Aug. 3.

"Quindo's Window," a dance and mime show for children, will be presented on July 30 and Aug. 6 at 10 a.m., and on Aug. 1 and 8 at 2 p.m. This show is designed for school-age children, and has been presented to thousands of children from North Carolina to New York.

Curtain time for "Story Theatre" is 8 p.m. Tickets for Broadstreet Music Stage are available from the box office located on Broad St. at Main St. in Berlin.