

“110 In The Shade” State Music Hall to Open, August 2, 1965

A topnotch new musical, which ran for almost a year on Broadway and then toured the country for almost that long, “110 in the Shade,” with Dorothy Collins and John Smith playing its comic, colorful and poignant story, comes to the State Fair Music Hall in Dallas Aug. 2 as the fourth of this summer’s Musicals.



With a Southwestern locale, the story originated from “The Rainmaker,” a play by N. Richard Nash which won critical acclaim on television and later as a Broadway play with Geraldine Page in the leading role. The musical was adapted by Nash himself, with songs written by Harvey Schmidt and long-popular harlequinade, “The Fantasticks.” The Dallas production will be seen by a special committee from the U.S. State Dept. who are considering it for a foreign tour.

In a drought-stricken western town lives Lizzie Curry, prim and maidish. Into town comes an attractive, fast-talking scalawag who claims he is a rainmaker. He promises to bring rain within 24 hours after he receives \$100 from Lizzie’s likable, sensible father. While waiting for the rain, this persuasive young dreamer awakens. Lizzie to love, and the plain, repressed young woman becomes a radiant creature, shining through the rousing rain that climaxes the show.

The prim old maid who blossoms with romance will be Dorothy Collins, a favorite with Dallas Summer Musicals of two different summers for her lovable characterizations of Fiona in “Brigadoon” and Ensign Nellie Forbush in “South Pacific.” John Smith is the dashing “rainmaker.” Starbuck by name. Portraying Lizzies father will be Robert Shafer, with Arthur Bartow and Joel Warfield as her two brothers. Gene Rupert is File, the local sheriff.

Dorothy Collins, Canadian-born, first gained the attention of the American public as the pretty young singer in the crisp blouse and black tie doing Lucky Strike jingle on television. Soon she was the star of the radio and TV versions of “Your Hit Parade.” She made her musical comedy debut as Dorothy in “The Wizard of Oz” with the St. Louis Municipal Theatre where she shattered attendance records. Since then she has filled a busy schedule of starring roles in the leading summer theatres, with her winters filled with personal appearances and TV guest spots.

John Smith was the Slim Sherman of 127 “Laramie” television programs, after which he played the romantic lead in “Circus World” opposite Claudia Cardinale. Earlier he had achieved his first success in “The High and Mighty” and such other films as “We’re No Angel,” “Wichita” and “The Bold and the Brave.”