



Summer Musicals at E.J. Thomas in the Early Years

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The new President Guzzetta, at the urging of various voices on campus, agreed to present a summer of Rogers and Hammerstein musicals at the newly opened E. J. Thomas Hall to showcase the venue and test the viability of summer programming. No expense was spared, as the aspiring director, Jack Horner, an adjunct faculty member in the Theatre Department, stepped forward to lead the effort to present three shows. Mr. Horner had high hopes for the project and was hopeful of taking one of the productions to Las Vegas after the summer season. The extravagances resulted in mixed success, as the project had run over budget. The hall went dark until the

Melody Tent company from the Youngstown area opened a summer operation a few years later. None of the shows went to Las Vegas, and there was some shifting around of personnel. In all, it was a colorful venture into the world of show business for the University.