

Santa Fe New Mexican
Sunday, January 21, 2007

A production of biblical proportions

*Students showcase
talent in 'Joseph
and the Amazing
Technicolor
Dreamcoat'*

By Wendy Brown

Dancing cornstalks and a singing and dancing Pharaoh straight out of Sha Na Na grace the stage in National Dance Institute of New Mexico's performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The show, canceled Saturday because of snowy weather, opens at 2pm at the Dance Barns on Alto Street. The cast plans to make up the canceled show by adding a 7pm performance tonight.

The musical, written by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, chronicles the troubles and triumphs of Joseph after his brothers sell him into slavery because he is their father, Jacob's favorite son. "Could it be I was born for higher things than you?" Joseph asks his brothers at one point, adding to their jealousy and their disdain for his dreamy ways.

Glenn Giron, 17, plays Joseph in the production. Giron said he started dancing with NDI-NM when he was in the fourth grade. Now he is a senior at Santa Fe High School and hopes to begin earning a Bachelor of fine Arts in musical theater when he starts college next year.

"I wouldn't be right here and interested in the arts if it wasn't for NDI-NM," Giron said.

Although *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is the first musical for NDI students in Santa Fe, it isn't Giron's. Last year, Giron performed in Santa Fe High's version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, another musical inspired by the Bible.

Donna Scheer, NDI-NM's director of the School for the Performing Arts and director of the show, said she chose the biblical story about Joseph and his brother because the music which included 1950s pop and country, would be easily accessible to kids who are more used to dancing than singing.

"I wanted to pick something where the music was a little more pop," Scheer said.

The show includes 36 NDI students who range in age from 9 to 17 she said.

The production, which honors the story's more serious moments, was also catchy enough to keep a school audience that included 4-year olds glued to the stage at a preview performance Friday. And it's not without humor.

"No one comes for dinner," laments one of Joseph's brthers as famine hits the land. "We'd only eat them anyhow."