Show part of Harvest Festival

The Sun Theatre will present award-winning actor Earl Bates as “Will Rogers in the 21st Century,” on Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.

Jill Rubenthaler, co-manager of the theatre, said the live performance will be a fun way to start off the Harvest Festival.

Rubenthaler said a free will donation to see the show will be accepted with proceeds going toward the “Comfort Counts” fund raiser for new seats and other improvements inside the theatre.

“This fun show takes a wry look at our crazy world through the eyes of the long-gone cowboy philosopher,” Bates said. “It recalls the vaudeville past and pokes fun at the present.”

Assuming the Okie’s persona, Bates combines a little pre-recorded music with simple props, a few rope tricks, some Broadway song and dance, guitar, harmonica and audience participation to concoct an event that’s entertaining, informative, thought provoking, and heart-warming, according to a press release about the event.

Matt Weiss, the other co-manager of the Sun, helped come up with the “Wild, Wild West” theme of the Harvest Festival and thought the show would relate to it.

“The board talked about getting somebody and we found him on a list of performers at the Nebraska Arts council,” Weiss said.

Rubenthaler said the performance looks like fun and people who attend should enjoy it.

The Harvest Festival starts Thursday, Sept. 19 and continues through Saturday, Sept. 21.