

Drama review:

Much ado about modern setting

By Anna Wilson

Shakespeare done in modern times? Never, you say. But done it is in the Theatre UNCA production of **Much Ado About Nothing**.

The play, set in modern times by Arnold Wengrow, director, is about a girl shamed at the altar by her love who believed malicious

gossip and the classic love/hate relationship between two others.

Really, now. In today's society, will a groom shame his bride in church in front of the wedding guests when he was told she cheated on him? Probably not.

And even in Sicily, where the play is set, they still don't do

minuet-type dances, do they? (Hasn't disco fever hit overseas?) And do they still use the archaic language of thee, thou, hath, and whither?

Wengrow should have changed the script to reflect modern times (but it just wouldn't have been Shakespeare) or set the play in the time it should have been (and play hell with the costume department). Probably any time before World War I would have worked. But this dilemma was never solved.

Much Ado About Nothing became a showpiece for Dr. David Hopes, by far the best performer. He played Benedick with flair. His soliloquies were perhaps the best scenes in the play. The scene where Benedick finds out about Beatrice's love for him was hilarious.

Also the camaraderie between Hopes' Benedick, Steve Magoon's Claudio and Tom Morris'

Don Pedro seemed very real and it provided some good episodes between the three.

Kathy Whatley came in a close second to Hopes for an outstanding performance. Her face was very expressive and the scenes between Benedick and Beatrice were charged as everyone waited to see who would throw the best barbs.

Tom Morris and Lee Morris played two brothers, one good, one bad. Both had a princely air about them and they played their parts first-class.

Magoon did as well as he could with his wimp-like character Claudio. I missed some of his lines, but the ones I did catch were enough. It's hard to admire a guy who calls his bride a rotten orange in church!

Mike Manley, Scott Mebane, Colin White, and Kazuo Miyabara provided comic relief in the form of bumbling detectives who solve

the Hero/Claudio/bad guys scenario. I constantly chuckled through all of their scenes. Manley's hat jump, Mebane's stupid tough guy, and White's and Miyabara's in-step routine were really funny.

Near the end of the play, I forgot that it was set in the present. The dance, whatever it was, could have been left out. The actors and actresses were trying to remember their steps and their lines, and it was distracting. A nice slow dance would have worked just as well.

Also the story itself just didn't fit modern times. Did I misunderstand, or did Benedick challenge Claudio to a duel? Dueling in the '80's? Come on, any Italian worth his salt would have hired the Mafia to take care of Claudio. But that just wouldn't be Shakespeare would it?



Go fly a kite: Marty Schmidt (right), Joe Simpson (center), and Jo-Jo (dog) enjoy the kite weather.

Photo by David Plunkett

Recital goes electronic

UNCA senior Robert Brown will give a performance of original electronic music blended with recorded sounds from the environment tonight at 8 p.m. in Lipinsky Auditorium.

As part of his senior recital, Brown will perform on the piano, guitar and synthesizer, accompanied by original recordings of traffic sounds, thunderstorms and bells.

The recital will also include exotic music from other lands,

"floating" guitars, and an appearance by classical pianist Dewitt Tipton.

"I'm a showman," said Brown, a self-professed "rock 'n' roller who wanted something different."

He urges students to "come with open ears and an open mind."

Brown is a native of Asheville and is completing his B.A. degree in music with liberal arts.

Admission for the recital is free.

Record review:

Scorpions pack powerful sting

By Colin White

In an age of musical resurgences (like Rockabilly, for instance) and thousands of new bands looking for a chance to make it big, it seems as though America is steadily becoming the true mother country of rock music.

More and more bands are coming to the realization that America is the place where the big bucks (and the gold records) are made.

And I don't just mean British bands either, even though they have dominated the rock invasion (of the U.S.) for a long time now.

More and more countries are getting into the act, like Australia (represented by Men at Work, Air Supply, and AC/DC), Ireland (the home of U2), and Scotland (Big Country's main headquarters).

And now Germany seems destined to become involved in the "Race for

the Gold" (records, that is), what with the emergence of the Scorpions' latest LP, entitled **LOVE AT FIRST STING**.

Although the Scorpions have been making records since 1972, it wasn't until recently that they gained a large following of heavy metal fans in this country. **LOVE AT FIRST STING** is their 11th album to date.

Their last LP, **BLACKOUT**, which made the Top 10 album charts last year, is currently reaching platinum status in the U.S.

In addition to that, the positive impact that **LOVE AT FIRST STING** will probably have on the rock industry should increase the popularity of **BLACKOUT**, too.

What's so great about **LOVE AT FIRST STING**, you ask? Everything. It features a wide variety of head-banging tunes, including the ever-

popular **Rock You Like A Hurricane**, an anti-war song, **Crossfire**, and even a beautiful ballad, **Still Loving You**.

Lead and rhythm guitarists Matthias Jabs and Rudolf Schenker, two of the best heavy metal "axe men" in the business, create an incredibly tight, precise guitar section on all the songs, while drummer Herman Rarebell and bassist Francis Buchholz maintain a hard, driving rhythm (on the up-beat tunes).

And of course Klaus Meine, lead singer, does a fine job, with his raspy vocals and high-pitched screams.

I'm also glad that the Scorpions decided to bring their music to America, where **LOVE AT FIRST STING**, along with the rest of their LP's, can be fully, as well as financially, appreciated. This is the "Land of Opportunity," remember?