



The cast poses after its successful production on Saturday night. PHOTO: STAFF

Play draws 400

By P. MICHELLE MIDKIFF

The Wayne Community College Foundation, Community Arts Council, and Mount Olive College sponsored a production of "A Man for All Seasons," a drama in 2 acts, on Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, at 8:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

The play, set in the mid-1500's, was written by Robert Bolt and directed by Ray Brannon, WCC sociology instructor.

Dr. Ed Hogan, instructor in Human Services, played the lead character, Sir Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England for Henry VIII.

The king, played by Brannon, is displeased with his wife Catherine of Aragon, who is unable to produce a male heir.

He requests a blessing from Sir Thomas More for divorce and remarriage to his mistress Anne Boleyn.

More, a devout Catholic, will not compromise his principles and conscience and is charged with treason, imprisoned, and beheaded as a martyr.

The characters and players follow:

Sir Thomas More, Dr. Ed Hogan; The Common Man, Mike Colvin, WCC student; Master Richard Rich, Charlie Taylor, community volunteer; The Duke of Norfolk, Tim Benware, WCC instructor in Criminal Justice; Lady Alice More, Rosalyn Lomax,

WCC English instructor; Lady Margaret More, Angela Aguiqui, WCC student; Cardinal Wolsey, Dr. Ralph Soney, Division Head of Human Services/ Social Sciences; Thomas Cromwell.

Also, Dr. Ron Taylor, Division Head of Allied Health; Signor Chapuys, Mark Jones, WCC student; William Roper, Adam Williams, WCC student; King Henry VIII, Ray Brannon; A Woman, Sue Benware, community volunteer; Thomas Cranmer, Edwin Modlin, WCC student.

Assisting with the production were WCC instructors Mike Saylor, Department Head of Social Sciences; Kathryn Spicer, Liberal Arts; and Sherry Granberry, Human Services.

Community volunteers included Jeannine Taylor, Olivia Brannon, and Paul Saylor.

WCC staff members who helped included Betty Wellons and Wade Hallman from the Media Production Department, student Jonathan Russell, instructor Mary Rowland, and Jack Kannan, executive director of the Foundation.

Costumes were provided by Creative Costumes of Raleigh, NC.

Everyone performed wonderfully and worked well together to create a success, Brannon said.

Approximately 200 people attended per performance.

Review

By KEAT POWELL,
HUMANITIES, HUM 211

[Powell's response to the assignment, "Review a live performance," a requirement in Marian Westbrook's HUM 211. Thanks to Westbrook for submitting this review, slightly edited for the sake of space, with the author's permission.]

Very seldom is it that I attend a play, or even a live performance for that matter. Furthermore, the few performances I have been to have been disappointing to say the least.

So the quality and professionalism of the amateur production of "A Man for All Seasons" by Robert Bolt, directed by Ray Brannon, at the WCC Lecture Hall came as a pleasant shock.

While a few of the cast members have theatrical reputations that precede them, I went in not expecting much of a performance and left surprisingly impressed and contented.

To keep my interest, a play must have a moderately intriguing plot. "A Man for All Seasons" certainly has that.

The story, set in the 16th century, revolves around Sir Thomas More, played by Dr. Ed Hogan, and his refusal to conform to a changing society. More has the prestigious honor of being King Henry VIII's chancellor played by Ray Brannon.

King Henry desperately wants a divorce from his infertile wife, Catherine, for whom he cares very little, so that he can marry his true love, Anne, and finally have a son to be the heir to his throne.

He needs Sir Thomas More's approval, as he is going against the church by pursuing a divorce. With More and his stainless reputation on his side, Henry feels the Pope will grant him his divorce.

However, More's stern religious beliefs and his moral code will not allow him to give his blessing to the King.

This stance eventually results in Henry's breaking away from the Church and forming his own. He appoints himself the head of this new church, grants himself a divorce, and marries Anne, making her the new queen of England.

Meanwhile, More is being persecuted for his lack of support for the king. He is given the opportunity to conform and accept the King's church several times but declines as he continuously stands up for his beliefs.

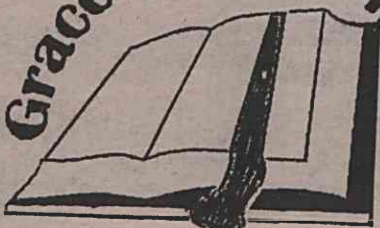
After being thrown in jail, he is later brought to trial on charges of treason and sentenced to death.

I would certainly like to commend the entire cast and crew of the amateur, and I use that term loosely, production on a job well done.

However, I was particularly impressed with Dr. Ed Hogan; Dr. Ron Taylor, who played Thomas Cromwell; and Rosalyn Lomax, who played Lady Alice More.

Coincidentally, these have experience and theatrical reputations preceding them. But regardless of their past accolades, they all deserve to be commended for their stellar performances.

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(John 14:6 NKJV)
*Jesus said to him,
 "I am the way, the truth,
 and the life.
 No one comes to the Father
 except through Me."*