

## "Six Characters" a success

# "Real" labors rewarded

By BILL MEIKRANTZ  
and MIKE CZYSZ

*Six Characters in Search of an Author* is the title of the play recently performed by the Guilford College Revelers. It is essentially a play about the theatre: the problems faced by the actors, their director, and the characters they strive to present. The guiding intention throughout is of course

that of the author. In Pirandello's play, the *characters* themselves appear; they argue, debate, and probe the meaning of the drama with the actors who are to portray them and the director who is to educe the play itself.

There is a question that arises in the mind of the viewer as he watches the plot unfold: What, exactly, is Pirandello writing about? Is he

writing just about the theatre, the problems faced by people connected with dramatic production? It seems that Pirandello in *Six Characters* is writing about a bigger theatre: the drama of human existence.

The play begins naturally. Workmen set the scene. The "real human beings" — the actors and their director — appear on the scene. But then there is sudden and surprising darkness: the nature of the reality created in the play is drastically altered. Out of the darkness the characters themselves — like the symbols in some Platonic dream — appear.

Now the real action of the play begins. The construction of the secondary play — the one with which the actors and the characters are concerned — is gradually made known through the ensuing dialogue.

A few words about the characters: they are very pure types, and their drama contains themes that are inherent to our race: Fears, such as fear of incest, or of rejection. There are struggles between father and son, son and mother, brother and sister. The story is ultimately very tragic — but I suggest that the themes developed to such a great extent in the secondary play are the themes that run like bloodlines under the thin flesh of our consciousness.

Out of this first question — that of the relationship between the human actors and the characters they are to present — evolves the main question of Pirandello's play: the question of an author. The director — the human director — is respected and obviously learned.

## Center springs alive

The Guilford College Women's Center is an alive and active organization, full of creative ideas for the approaching spring. Their stated purpose is to educate both men and women, to unify women, and increase communication.

The members of the center carry out these goals in a variety of ways, ranging from political canvassing for the E.R.A. to curating and organizing art exhibitions. They try and emphasize the contributions of famous women in conjunction with these activities through films concerning the lives of women artists, writers and composers. Coming up in April will be a film on the life and world of Gertrude Stein.

The president of the center is Sarah Taylor, whose academic life revolves around a humanistic studies major in Women's Studies with an emphasis upon Art History and English. She is currently writing her thesis on the topic of Women's Art. Terry Hammond, the vice-president, is an Art major specializing in paper-making. Together these two women organize and curate the center's art exhibitions. Joan Curcio and Amy Steerman handle the activities surrounding women's rights as well as prospects for the upcoming spring publication of *Womansprouts 1979*. Kathy Neckerman and Naomi Donovan are also central figures in the planning of events.

This spring students can look forward to *In/Scapes*, an exhibition of



The Women's Center plans numerous activities for the upcoming spring.

self-portraits by the Guilford College community, a work-shop on the topic of mother-daughter relationships, and a variety of films and speakers all sponsored by the Women's Center.

Next fall plans are rolling for a series of forums on women's issues, to be structured in a form similar to the current weekly colloquiums. They will be having a brain-storming session on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at 12:00 in the small dining room for those interested in becoming a part of this cooperative process.

Students are also invited to borrow from the center's small library which includes books about Women's art, literature, politics and other issues pertinent to women. It is located in their office on the second floor of Founders, across from the Union.

The Women's Center is based upon a cooperative system which emphasizes the strengths, interests and talents of its various members. No one has the final authority to veto an idea, as projects are organized on a collective basis.

Men are welcome and involved in many of the center's activities as they strive to attain their goal of increased communication between the men and women of Guilford College. The Women's Center is a varied and creative organization always open to new members and ideas.

For further information on the center's activities contact Sarah Taylor or Terry Hammond at 855-1253.



The Revelers staged an excellent production of Pirandello's "Six Characters in Search of an Author."



He controls the scene — but he cannot serve as author. He has not invented (created?) the characters and so even he must serve them — and thus the intentions of the unseen author.

At the close of the play there falls again a sudden darkness. The characters disappear, but there shadows remain suspended over the actual protagonist of the real drama: the actors, the director, and the audience.

On the whole, the production was very well done. The acting, stage direction, and properties all contri-

buted to form a complete whole. Difficult to present effectively to an audience, the performance was ably handled by the principals: David Brown as director, Ray Rinchiuso as the father, Felicia Ashton as his stepdaughter, and Lilli Shacklett as the mother. Rachel McCaw's brief appearance as "Madame" Pace was quite amusing and thoroughly appreciated. The actors were portrayed by Liz Allen, Brian Beard, Jenny Crocker, David Jewett, Andrew Millikin, and Lisa Morton. Credit for this production goes to Donald Deagon, Director, and Richard Prouty, designer.

## Feeders attract unique avians

By JIM HOOD

The past two snows have provided an exceptional opportunity for winter bird watching. With snow covering the ground, many of Greensboro's winter residents rely upon backyard feeding stations for their nourishment. When the snow comes the birds flock.

Last Thanksgiving a bird feeder was put up in front of a Frazier living room window in hopes that a few stray species would wander up to it during the winter months. Surprisingly enough the birds not only came one by one, but in droves. Most of the birds who overwinter in this area are seed eaters and the combination of sunflower, millet, and other grains proved to be the right recipe for attracting these feathered creatures.

Visitors to the feeder have included dark-eyed juncos, chickadees, tufted titmice, starlings, blue jays, cardinals, purple finches, song sparrows, white-throated sparrows,

English Sparrows, and even a brown thrasher. Mockingbirds, who also stay in this area over the winter, are not seed eaters and therefore don't visit the feeder although they are commonly seen nearby.

The juncos are the most numerous and are easily recognized by their slate-colored back and head, the white breast, and the two streaks of white along the outer edges of the tail. These birds also seem to be the least timid.

The tufted titmouse is a temperamental bird. It hardly ever stops moving and is always in a hurry to leave when there is the slightest disturbance. The tuft on this sparrow-sized bird is very noticeable and the rusty-colored patches on the sides give the mostly grey-colored bird a little flair. Its voice is a distinctive nasal *peter, peter or here, here, here, here*.

The cardinal and blue jay are so familiar they hardly need a description. The cardinals often come to

the feeder in pairs showing the striking difference between the coloring of the male and the female.

The purple finch, though, is certainly one of the favorite winter birders. The male has been described as looking like a sparrow that has been dipped in raspberry juice." Indeed it gives this splendid appearance.

Actually the finch isn't really purple at all. The female is duller with a very distinct streaked breast. Seen against the background of snow, the purple finch is a true delight.

For all its beauty, now can present a real problem to those birds trying to find seeds on the ground. For this reason the backyard feeder can really help the birds make it through the winter. The double advantage of the backyard feeder is that it helps the birds and the bird watcher. A small investment makes for a great deal of enjoyment.