

Four times one equals fun

By Ruthanna Haines

Four one-acts were presented by the Revelers, and acted and directed by the acting and directing classes on Wednesday and Thursday nights, April 18 and 19.

The River, by James Elward, directed by Deepika Vazirini, opens in a quiet bar with a rather depressed birthday celebration for Yvonne (Gretchen Porkert). With her is Terry (Barbara Dworkin), who is trying desperately to lift her friend from her 30-year-old blues. The arrival and subsequent emotional discussion of two parting lovers cheers Yvonne immeasurably, as she realizes the main positive aspect of passing the magic age of 29. She sees that she is beyond the sham of love. She no longer has to worry about getting hurt by a dying love affair, as does the Girl (Felicia Ashton). The Man (Charles Helsabeck) is a rather detached individual who doesn't involve himself overly in the whole situation; besides, he can go home to his wife. The Waiter (Jeff Smith) listens to the conversations with interest, and comments upon them with facial expression only.

Please - No Flowers, directed by Jeff McCann, was an interesting play. Set in a funeral parlour, we see two 'spirits' rise and walk around, discussing the pros and cons of life and death. In the beginning, Lena (Rachel McCaw) and Esther (Liz Allen) feel glad they are dead, leaving behind the drudgery and problems that life held. After seeing her boss and his wife (Ed Swain and Corky Williams), Esther is still glad. But the Young Man (Brian Beard) comes to say his final good-bye with flowers and tears, and Esther finds that he wanted to marry her. Death becomes a black prospect, and she regrets having jumped off the bridge to her death so early in her life. Lena, too, changes

her mind when she has visitors.

Two lady friends (Arliss Avelone and Donna Hamilton) come to pay their respects and she is all the more glad that she is dead. But when her niece, Sandy (Betsy Linthicum), comes with the news that the relatives are fighting over the money which Lena left to her, Lena regrets having let go of life so soon. The caretaker (Jesus Ceron) comes and ushers the visitors out at closing time, and Lena and Esther return to quiet rest in their caskets, trying to reconcile themselves to death. In their final words, hysterical laughter is heard. "Life is a joke, and so is death," it seems to say. Neither woman can see the humor, and neither can the audience.

Night, by Sholem Asch, directed by Major McKinney, is a one-act about the 'dogs' who have been driven to the streets and are challenged by a thief (Dave Bradley) to worship the 'Holy Mother' (Sheri Clanon), and follow her to deliverance. The 'dogs' are social outcasts; a drunkard (Jeff Smith), a prostitute (Emily Figuly), a fool (Jesus Ceron), a beggar (Gregory Green), and a boy who is supposedly possessed by the devil (Jeff McCann). The voice of the drunkard's wife (Barb Dworkin) hails him in after the 'dogs' realize the thief has played a joke on them. There is a social comment to be heard throughout the play. There is no hope for outcasts. They play their games and continue their wayward lives with no lasting hope for release.

To the Chicago Abyss, by Ray Bradbury, directed by Heidi Hirschmann, portrays an old man (Shaun Jones) who is left with memories after the bombing devastation of his country. In this futuristic portrayal, he tries to awaken the memories of the pre-bombing world in an old woman (Marcia Suskin) and a

young man (David Bradley), and in a stranger and his wife (David Frank and Jan Earl). He meets anger, fear, and frustration, and finally, help in escaping the Special Police (Virginia Beury), who want him for the illegality of remembering the past. Headed for the Chicago Abyss on the train, he tries not to speak his memories aloud to avoid trouble. The Boy (Ricky Prouty) who sits beside him evokes his desire to impart memories to the younger generations so that they can rebuild the past pleasures of coffee and candybars. The play ends with "Once upon a time..." Throughout the play, the narrator (Major McKinney) constructs the missing characters and scenery.

On Sunday afternoon, April 22, Edward Albee's **The Zoo Story** was directed and acted by David A.P. Brown and Tom Abrams. Peter (Abrams), who has a wife, two daughters, a cat, and two parakeets, is approached in Central Park by a poor man named Jerry (Brown) who talks incessantly about how he views life through his shoddy living situation and the dog who belongs to his landlady. He keeps Peter listening, telling him things that rile him enough to fight and kill him. After a scuffle over the ownership of the parkbench they have sat



Felicia Ashton and Charles Helsabeck discuss a dying love affair in "The River."

on, Jerry is stabbed rather accidentally. He thanks Peter for sticking around, and tells him to run home before he gets caught. We find out that Jerry has baited Peter to help him to commit suicide. Peter, shaking with fear and disbelief at what has come to pass, runs away crying "Oh, my God!" Jerry dies on the parkbench.

The characters of the five plays have in common dissatisfaction with their situations, and the inescapability of their fates.

The portrayal of the characters was generally fine. To be especially commended are Shaun Jones, David Brown, Barb Dworkin, Tom Abrams, Gretchen Porkert, Corky Williams, Brian Beard, the Cast of **Night**, and Ricky Prouty, who made a very fine boy.

Acknowledgement must be made to John Steely (lights), Nancy Schofield (sound), Rick Prouty and Donald Deagon, and all others who contributed to the successful production.

New interns announced

Bob White, Director of Housing and Security, has recently announced the selection of interns for the 1979-80 school year. They are: R.J. Blincoe-Milner 3rd south, Kirk McDonald-Milner 3rd North, Lou Prentiss-Milner 1st North, Mark Keavney-Bryan 2nd, Kevin Morley-Milner 1st South, Bradley Forrest-Milner 2nd South, Steve Lowe-English,

Wes Adams-Bryan 1st, Joe Angelini-Milner 2nd North, Elaine Smith-Binford 3rd, Jane Allen-Binford 2nd, Sue Ireton-Binford 1st, Scott Costlow-Fraziers, and Peg Schaefer-Bryan 3rd.

The alternates are Beth Eakes, Terry Boucher, Donna Hamilton, Snowden Williams, Doug Hasty, and Paul Hemrick.

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If you have any ideas about how the *Guilfordian* can better serve your needs and desires, drop a note in my box, #17094. If you would like to join our staff, let me know; we would love to have you!

Thanks!
Brian Carey,
 '79-'80 Editor



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