

Audience Reaction Proves Success Of 'My Fair Lady'

A Review
By BROOKE McKAMY
And BILL HAPPEL

The enthusiastic applause and spontaneous laughter in Friday night's performance of "My Fair Lady," directed by Thomas Patterson established a vital rapport between cast and audience.

In an amateur production of a musical as familiar as "My Fair Lady," the audience anticipates almost every word. It is difficult to project necessary freshness into the performance. This is success of the Playmaker' production; they overcame this difficulty.

Peggy Jones is consistently entertaining in her sparkling performance of Eliza Doolittle as she handles the transformation from flower girl to fair lady with accomplished ease. Her voice, though not strong, is clear and melodic.

In comparison with her performance as Little Mary Sunshine last year, she seems to have developed a greater dramatic flexibility. She succeeds in portraying Eliza with both humor and dignity.

In his attempt to release Eliza from her linguistic gutter, John Whitty does a fine job capturing the charmingly arrogant Professor Higgins. His dynamic portrayal is an excellent complement to Graham Pollock's delightfully dull Colonel Pickering. Graham's fine sense of timing provides the show with some of

its best comic moments.

"My Fair Lady" could never achieve the success that it does, however, without the brilliant performance of Fred Cook as Alfred P. Doolittle. As he bounds around the stage, he captivates the audience and steals every scene in which he appears. The vitality of his portrayal seems to be essential to the pace of the play.

The musical numbers are well handled, with the exception of "On the Street Where You Live" and "Show Me," because of the comparatively weak performance of Creed Freeman as Freddy Eynsford-Hill. The rest of the supporting cast handle their parts well, especially Josephine Pettis as Mrs. Higgins and Anne West as Mrs. Pearce.

The chorus should be commended for its consistent liveliness and its articulation of the lyrics. The opening musical number and the Embassy Waltz scene are examples of well-planned choreography.

It is evident that as much effort was expended on the technological development of "My Fair Lady." The settings by Tommy Rezzuto are colorfully realistic in establishing an exact atmosphere for the musical. The

costuming by Irene Smart Rains, from tweed topper to tails, gabardine to gossamer gowns is similarly striking.

Russell Graves' practiced hand at lighting brought the principals to focus.

The orchestration, directed by Charles Horton, though initially faltering, seemed to come alive to the challenge offered by the excellent music of Frederick Loewe. Especially notable were the English Horn solos of Mack Smith.

Highest praise goes to director Thomas Patterson who has visualized, in "My Fair Lady" the dream of every director. He has taken a well established musical and restated it in his own terms, without the slightest subtraction from the original work.

The Carolina Playmakers have staged a successful production of "My Fair Lady."

'RACE' IS TOPIC

"Race as a Continuing Problem in American Life" will be the subject of Dr. J. Neal Hugley of North Carolina College today at 4 p.m. in the basement of University Methodist Church here.

The program is sponsored by the Wesley Foundation.

Around The Campus

Spanish Novelist Lectures Monday

"The New Contemporary Short Story" will be topic for Spanish novelist Miguel Delibes at 8 p.m. Monday in Dey Hall faculty lounge.

The visiting lecturer at University of Maryland will be sponsored by UNC and Duke departments of romance languages.

Delibes has written several novels and received the national Miguel de Cervantes Prize and Critics Prize in 1963.

Speigner To Speak At Service Tonight

Dr. Theodore R. Speigner, chairman and professor of the Department of Geography at North Carolina College in Durham, will be the speaker at the Reformation Service Sunday evening at Holy Trinity Church.

The service, sponsored by the Lutheran Student Association, will begin at 7 p.m.

Yale Professor Presents Papers

Yale University Professor Norwood Russell Hanson will speak to two groups here next week.

The historian and philosopher of science will present a paper

entitled "The Genetic Fallacy Revisited" at 8 p.m. Tuesday in 115 Ackland Art Center.

Hanson will discuss "Stability Proofs and Consistency Proofs" at a Duke-UNC physics colloquium in 265 Phillips at 4 p.m. Wednesday. The lecture will deal with the problems of the stability of the planetary system.

Gov. Sanford Talks Tuesday At Duke

Gov. Terry Sanford will speak on behalf of the Johnson-Humphrey candidacies at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday in Duke's Page Auditorium.

Some 100 seats will be reserved for UNC Young Democrats until 8:30 p.m. when they will be released to the public.

James Farmer Is On CORE Program

James Farmer, national director of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), will speak Nov. 7 in Durham at the Southern Regional Conference.

Farmer's topic, "New Directions in the Civil Rights Movement," will be the primary subject at the conference. Sessions will begin Nov. 6 at Union Baptist Church, 904 N. Roxboro St.



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