

# ARTS

## 'Hair' cast effectively portrays mood, emotions from the '60s

As I entered through the doors of the dimly lit Cabaret, it smelled as if the supporters for the legalization of the use of marijuana had just had a big celebration. I turned the corner, where I bumped into an old friend or at least I thought it was she.

"I'm Dionne," she said. She seemed to be "feeling good," almost too good, if you know what I mean.

Turning away, she joined the other members of the cast of "Hair" as they mingled or shall I say "floated" through the audience, each in their individual '60s hippie characters.

### Philip McAdoo Theater

The actors slowly gathered onto the set, which consisted of platforms and a huge graffiti banner with messages of peace and love. The audience watched as this group of 13 very talented actors began to tell their story of hope for a better world.

"Hair" is about a group of young people who live together as a tribe on

the streets of New York City in the late '60s. Because they are unhappy with the state of the world, they form their own world where drugs, sex and music are positive factors. The musical is set during the time of the Vietnam War and tries to show what was in the minds of the younger generation during a trying period.

The show opened with "Aquarius," a song familiar to many. The powerful and coaxing voice of Emmaretta (Melissa Wade) led the tribe as it performed a well-choreographed routine. From there, the excitement escalated.

During the first act of the show, the audience laughed hysterically, as Hud (Gregg Redmon) with his powerful James Brown-like voice, performed the crowd pleasing, "I'm Black." I heard a girl scream when Berger (Scott Weber) casually removed his pants to show everyone his peace sign that was appropriately branded on the rear of his underwear. But the shock value of the exposed Fruit of the Looms was later diminished by a scene of outright nudity. It was this carefree attitude that made the almost three hour show very enjoyable.

Although "Hair" does not really have a clear plot or main character, it is loosely centered around Claude's (Trent McDevitt) decision of whether to burn his draft card or to go fight in the war. He comes to grips with the decision under the persuasion of a very powerful drug. McDevitt's acting was moving and intense as it illustrated the powerful effects of hallucinogenic drugs.

As a part of his hallucinations, the other members of the cast performed very entertaining and dramatic re-enactments of past wars. All sorts of unlikely figures show up in these strange

sequences, including a character portraying Aretha Franklin as a soldier in the Civil War.

Moving, intense, uplifting and sometimes confusing, all describe the run of "Hair" this past weekend. It was a huge celebration of the past with hope for the future. The actors did an excellent job of conveying many messages through the music and attitude of the '60s generation. One of the play's characters, Margaret Mead (Chiaki Ito) said, in describing the Tribe, "The little flower pots were terrific!" And nothing could be closer to the truth.

## Lab Theater's 'Arturo Ui' production teaches timeless lesson of success

The difference between love and lust is the difference between a great leader and a corrupt one.

This week the Lab Theater presents "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui," by Bertolt Brecht, a play that shows the climb to power of a man who knows only lust.

Brecht's "epic theater" is loosely narrative, designed to prevent the existence of the "fourth wall" that separates the audience from the action. This effect physically includes and emotionally alienates the audience, allowing an objective judgment and preventing a sympathetic one. The difficulty of

### Greg Miller Theater

producing Brecht is in knowing how far the audience can be pushed in this unfamiliar direction and still be entertained and educated—the presentation must not overshadow the lesson.

In "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui," Brecht tells the story of Adolph Hitler's ascension in American terms—Chicago gangsters. But the themes are applicable anywhere, any time.

Director Kelly Johnston draws clean parallels to many historical figures.

Billy Crudup leads the cast as Arturo Ui. In a performance that would make Al Capone shudder, Crudup shows the greed of power and its ability to totally possess a man.

Many cast members give solid performances to show the intricate, vile logic that makes a climb such as Hitler's or Capone's possible. The turmoil in the ranks, stemming from envy and twisted loyalty, and the treachery are shown to be definitive parts of a cause without a heart. More importantly, the show uncovers the weakness of the

public that shuts its eyes to the truth and allows itself to be run over.

While the play is designed for a cast of 40 or 50, the Lab pulls it off with 15. This means that many cast members pull double or triple duty, but more importantly it means that they work as a true ensemble, a team that is capable of taking on something much bigger than itself.

The Lab Theater has successfully produced a Brechtian show. The playwright is a teacher and an artist; his beautiful language and imagery and his blatant honesty allow neither purpose to be ignored. The production is a beau-

tiful show, and is easy to immerse oneself in it, but the underlying lesson cannot be ignored. At any moment a cast member may come out, tap an audience member's shoulder and ask him or her to support Hitler.

What makes it truly purposeful, however, are the parallels in today's world. "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui," uses new names to tell a timeless story and teach a lesson that must not be forgotten.

## Americans join in world celebration of Earth Day

### From Associated Press reports

Millions of Americans gathered in parks and on village greens Sunday to celebrate a worldwide 20th anniversary party for Earth Day, the environmental "teach-in" that launched a movement.

Thousands watched a hot-air balloon decorated as Earth rise in New York's Times Square.

Students at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania buried a papier mache "Old Earth" containing a plastic foam cup, aerosol can, disposable diaper and container of leaded gasoline.

An estimated 3,600 American cities and towns mustered forces to rejuvenate the environmental movement, born with the original Earth Day in 1970.

"I get a real sense of a renewal, and a kind of rededication, that will provide the support for change at the grassroots level," said John McLachlan, scientific director at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park. "There's a sense of urgency that hasn't been there."

Unlike the first Earth Day, this year's commemoration was an international

event. More than 140 countries on all seven continents participated.

The international celebration will "give the clear message to politicians that millions of people are aware of the problems facing the earth," said Andrew Lees of the British branch of Friends of the Earth.

President Bush spent the day fishing in the Florida Keys. He paused to give one of his regular "point of light" awards to the citizens' group Reef Relief, which is working to save the coral reef flanking the Keys.

Bush also said he would back a resolution to keep merchant ships off the reef. When Craig Quirolo, one of the founders of Reef Relief, asked for a ban on oil drilling in the Keys, Bush said the answer would come soon and that Quirolo wouldn't be disappointed.

Nine oil companies hold 73 leases off of the Keys.

In Boston, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles performed for Earth Day. They "serve as reminders of how we must care for our environment," organizers said. It was a toxic chemical that transformed them from ordinary turtles into

box-office champs.

The Nature Conservancy marked Earth Day with the signing of land-protection deals in all 50 states that will protect a total of 71,000 acres of natural terrain. The aim is to help save rare plants and animals from extinction, the organization said.

The day dawned on a somber note in Oak Ridge, Tenn., where demonstra-

tors in white death masks and black shrouds held a "requiem for the Earth" at the gates of a nuclear weapons plant.

The demonstration ended with Ney Piemo, an Amazonian Indian from Peru, planting an 8-foot black oak as a symbol of life. "I want to thank you, the whole world, about Earth Day. From now on, today, tomorrow and forever, we'll have Earth Day."

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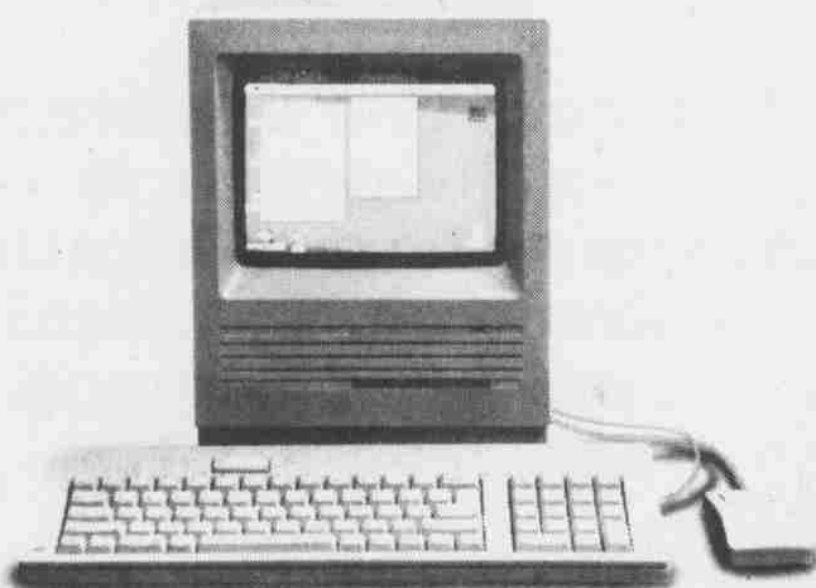
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