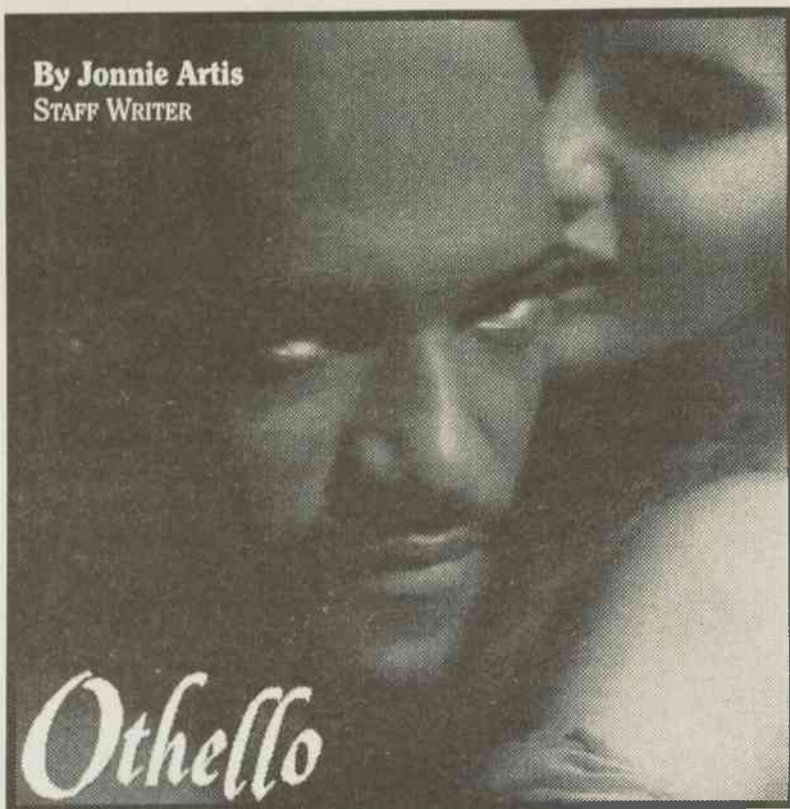


By Jonnie Artis
STAFF WRITER



Laurence Fishburne has come into his own with his rendition of Shakespeare's classic tragic hero "Othello". Oliver Parker, who you might remember from "Hellraiser," directs Fishburne, Kenneth Brannagh, and Irene Jacobs in the compelling, tragic love story of Othello and Desdemona.

Parker does a good job adapting the play for the screen. He adds a little flava to the characters and gives them all a boost. This film adaptation of the classic play has more emotional and romantic feeling than I remember when reading Othello in English 58. Parker did not change the ending to be a happy one or anything drastic like that, he just gave the story a little bit of Lawry's (seasoning salt). My only real complaint with Parkers adaptation was the omission of so many of "Othello's" lines.

Othello:

Fishburne Moves From Original Form

Laurence Fishburne plays a silent but powerfully brooding Othello. Fishburne has an extraordinary vocal instrument, which resonates throughout the movie. He is quite convincing as the powerful and jealous Moor of Venice. Kenneth Brannagh is even more convincing as the scene stealing Iago. Parker has taken Brannagh's character and done something new with it.

Although we are not suppose to like Iago, I think he has some flava and appeal. Throughout the movie he is conducting these little side bars where he cracks jokes and tells the viewers what dirty deed he will do next. Irene Jacobs renders a decent portrayal of Desdemona. She might be the one character who remained closest to her Shakespearean character. Her voice is a distraction and her lines are sometimes hard to comprehend since English is not her first language.

As an English major, I thoroughly enjoyed Oliver Parker's rendition of Othello. I thought it was a nice change from the original form. If you are a Laurence Fishburne fan, go see it, you will be impressed. If you follow Kenneth Brannagh's acting career, this is one of his best Shakespearean performances to date.

One last piece advise. If you think you can check out Laurence and Kenneth and pass your quiz on the play you are mistaken. I would always advise reading the book or in this case the play first because 1) You might miss out on some important dialogue and 2) I saw a few English TA's in the theater when I went to see it, so they know what's up.

Congressional Budget Cuts

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helpless in their educational endeavors. Clinton proposes the expansion of federal works study programs—a five year goal in which he hopes to increase the program from 700,000 participants to over 1 million. Clinton also addressed the need for the federal government to award more merit-based financial aid by rewarding the top five percent of high school seniors in each high school with a \$1,000 scholarship. This would give \$125,000 new students each year a guaranteed monetary goal to strive for.

The most promising educational proposal from Clinton was a tax deduction on college tuition that would allow families

to deduct as much as 100 percent of their children's cost from their taxable income. Any family making under \$100,000 would be allowed to "write off" as much as \$10,000 in tuition and fees. Perhaps this is the "cure-all" plan that will push the American family into the increasingly higher-education oriented world of the twenty-first century.

Is Clinton's newly found education glee a ploy to win the middle class vote? Is Congress' willingness to sacrifice American youth fro "big business" interests merely a murky plot to gain notoriety as the Congress that finally balanced the budget? No one knows yet, but what is certain is

that we are on the brink of education's judgment day. Let its Book of Life be our vote.

**Key word—loan. In 1996, House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the G.O.P. thinks a billion dollars spent on educational loans is a billion dollars added to the deficit. As Congress has already proven by refusing to pay its "non-essential workers" during the government shutdown, it is also willing to cut its "non-essential" federal programs and side with money making "big business" if it means creating a balanced budget—even at the expense of our future leaders.*