

Arts and Entertainment

"CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD"

Play performed mostly in Sign Language

Erin Aldridge
Pilot staff

"Children of a Lesser God," performed March 14-16 and 19-21, depicts two completely different worlds coming together to find ways to communicate with each other.

The director of Gardner-Webb's production of "Children of a Lesser God," Scot Lahaie, said that a performance of a play should be a conversation carried on between the actors and their audiences.

"A successful play," said Lahaie, "should provoke the audiences' thought processes and make them want to go converse about the play's meaning with others."

The actors performing "Children of a Lesser God" carry on a conversation with their audiences, but in a very different way than one might think is typical for a play. Many people attending the play could not hear the words spoken during the play, and others could not speak the language used by the actors. The play is performed in mostly American Sign Language and largely involves the deaf community.

"Children of a Lesser God" involves only eight actors, but even such a small cast makes a big statement. The plot basically consists of a speech therapist, James Leeds, played by David Hawes, who falls in love with and marries one of his deaf students who cannot speak, Sarah Norman, played by Kathy Davis, and their struggles to understand one another. Hawes' character is fluent in ASL, but is not deaf. Therefore he can-

not truly understand Sarah and the reason she refuses to learn to speak. This couple struggles throughout the play to find a way to communicate and understand each other.

Not only does the play itself have a wonderful story to share and an important meaning to get across, but the setting is also very interesting and an important part of the production. Technology allows huge, white cubes to function as movie screens as they show pictures relating to the set or situation of each scene of the play. Books show up when James is in his office, or a picture of Bridge for Dummies pops up on the screen during a bridge game.

Before "Children of a Lesser God" even starts, it is very clear that there is something important to be learned from it. In the lobby in front of Dover Theater, there are many boards set up with information about the play and the deaf community.

Not only does "Children of a Lesser God" seek to tell a wonderful story and make one think, but additional interesting information is provided to create even more awareness about the world of the hearing impaired.

Many who attended the play or were involved with it said that it really did leave an impact on them and make them think. Rachel Jones, who shares the part of Edna Klein with Micah Soto, felt more connected to the deaf community.

"The actors are like outsiders looking in. We got a taste of what it is like not to be able to hear," said Jones.

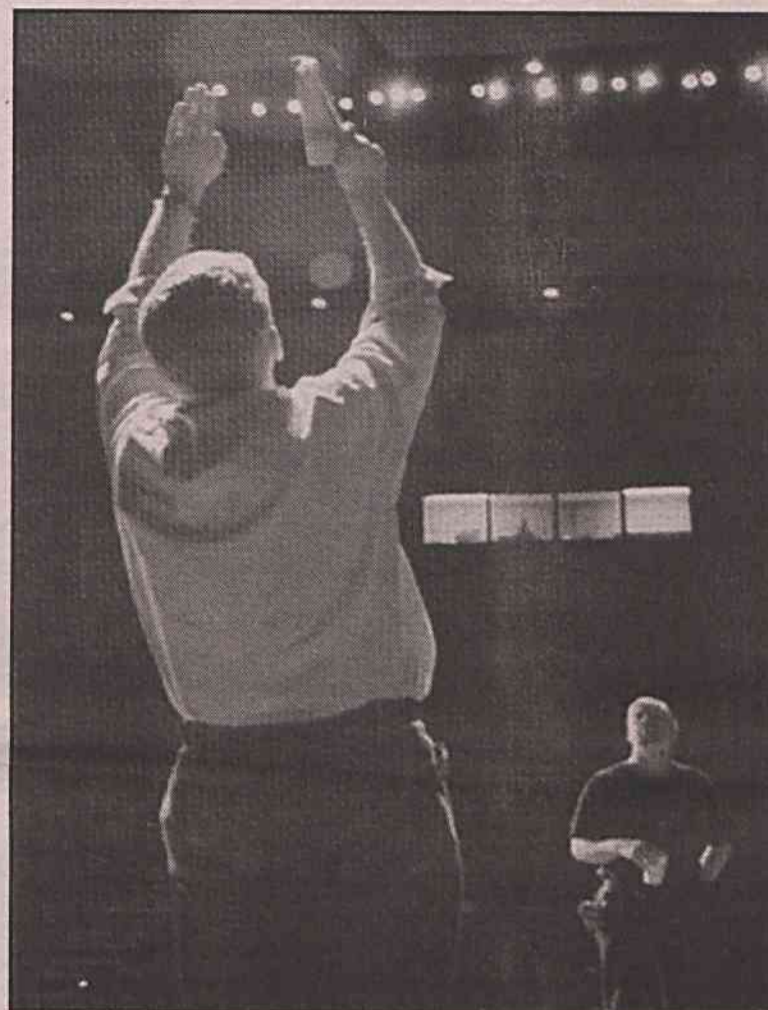


Photo by Wendy Shockley

Technical director Chris Keene works on stage lighting while David Hawes rehearses for the production of Children of a Lesser God.

MOVIE REVIEW

Movie depicts war

Rachel Jones
Pilot staff

Another war movie, more gore, grime and grit, right? Not necessarily. This 3 hour 36 minute movie (yes, it's really that long) shows the reality of the Civil War and immortalizes its heroes. The movie also has a 10-minute intermission.

The movie, a prequel to TNT's original movie, "Gettysburg," focuses on Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson (played by Stephen Lang), and his life as a legendary war hero. General Jackson is portrayed in a surprisingly delightful light—a devout Christian, husband, father, and soldier. The movie keeps his devout religious faith without degrading him in any way.

"Gods and Generals" shows the brother-against-brother conflict that occurred in the Civil War, including a scene in which the Irish brigades in both the Confederate and Union armies begin to anguish over fighting each other. Although relevant to character development, the monologues, given by General "Stonewall" Jackson, Lt. Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain (played by Jeff Daniels), could have been left out. Many times they made the movie longer causing the audience to shift in their seats.

There are many heart-wrenching scenes that leave the audience in tears as well as those scenes, which cause the audience to laugh. Overall, despite the length, "Gods and Generals" is a good depiction of the Civil War.

CD REVIEW

Dixie Chicks' new CD a disappointment

Emily Killian
Pilot copy editor

The Dixie Chicks' newest CD, entitled "Home," is a virtual journey that explores many aspects of home life. Their down to earth sound, combined with amazing vocals produce a sound that is all their own.

The first song on the CD, "Long Time Gone," goes perfectly with the album's title, and is about how people change, but home does not.

"Travelin' Soldier" continues the theme and shows the relationship between a girl and a soldier during the Vietnam War, and their desire for the soldier to return home.

"A Home" rounds out the theme, and is about the home that would have been made, in a relationship that might have

been.

The CD's theme, based on the idea of home was a very clever idea; however, it was not continued past the middle of the CD.

Songs closer to the end of the album deal more with relationships, and include: "I Believe in Love," which highlights a desire for a lasting and uncompromising love; "Tortured, Tangled Hearts," which tells the story of a woman who left her fiancé at the altar; and "Top of the World," a song about regrets in life.

As opposed to the more happy-go-lucky sounds of previous albums, the Dixie Chicks have definitely come home this time with a more bluegrass sound.

Overall, I think that the album was good, but I would not recommend it wholeheartedly.

Killigan Points: 3 out of 5.