

Play review

Miller's 'The Crucible' attempts expressionism

Kaitlyn North

Assistant A&E Editor

If theatergoers did not have the chance to read "The Crucible" in high school, they may have been unfamiliar with the significance and relationships of the characters in the play before witnessing the performing arts department's production of Arthur Miller's classic this weekend.

It was a struggle to keep up with the bonnet-clad characters and story line taking place on stage without having the background of the play.

Undertaking a play like "The Crucible" is a formidable task for any theater program consisting of young people. The department of performing arts further challenged themselves by casting less experienced players in major roles and experimenting with expressionistic setting devices.

Despite the ambitious attempts, the audience was extremely aware of every minute of the three-hour production. There were many instances when the characters were squabbling amongst themselves, and that

action seemed redundant.

Although all of the major leads brought a bravery and excitement to their roles, the overall impression left was a consistent, desperate anger. There were very few variations in the emotional levels of the characters, which made it very difficult for the audience to keep their attention focuses on the stage.

William Webb, lighting designer, and Dale Becherer, scenic designer, should be commended for their professional treatment of the set.

The difficult plot and context was made easier to understand through deliberate lighting choices and a single raked stage throughout the play. More was revealed in the first several wordless moments of action by the impression the set left than what was actually taking place on stage.

The highlight of the show was reserved for the big players in small roles. Ashley Hunter was a breath of fresh air as the very believable elderly Rebecca Nurse.

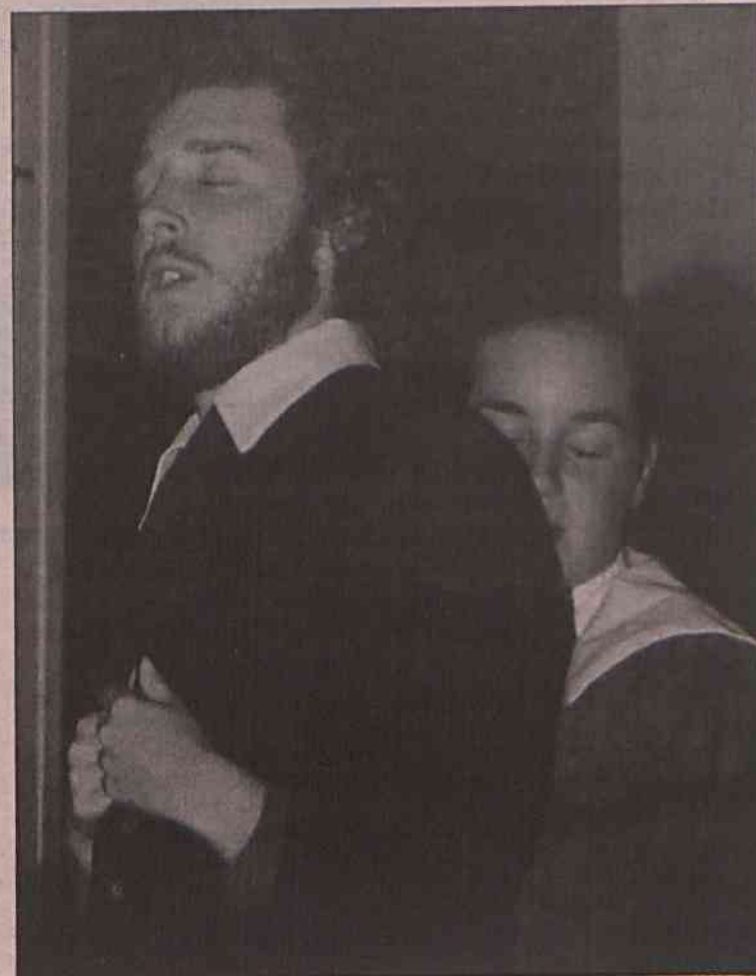
Newcomer Nick Ryan as Giles

Corey brought a sense of realism to Miller's lofty and complicated language, and as a result received the first of the standing ovations at the end of the show.

Phillip Ward and Nick Burr as Deputy-Governor Danforth and John Proctor respectively, did a masterful job of transcending their youth and channeling the maturity which was demanded of their characters.

Kendra Goehring's performance was, as usual, a near-perfect reflection of the dutiful Elizabeth Proctor, and her lack of self-consciousness as an actress earned her the right to deliver the play's closing line.

It is understood that this show symbolized the annual "passing of the torch" to younger members of the program in an effort to prepare them to step into empty roles left by graduating seniors. Hopefully next time around, they will be more comfortable in their own skins, and be more willing to shed them for future parts.



Tim Reamer / Photo Editor

Nick Burr and Katie Hilliard star as John Proctor and Abigail Williams in Arthur Miller's "The Crucible."

Contact Kaitlyn North at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Showbiz Briefs

Jack Osbourne, son of Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, checked himself into a rehabilitation clinic in California. The clinic has not revealed for what the 17-year-old is there. Reports indicate Jack's parents accompanied him to the clinic Saturday.



Jack Osbourne

Shelley Morrison, who plays Karen's maid Rosario on "Will & Grace," was arrested Saturday for shoplifting from a Los Angeles department store. She was booked under the name Rachel Dominguez and posted \$20,000 bail. She will be arraigned May 14.

Reality television's success did not transfer to the big screen, as "Cancun" grossed \$2 million at the box office its opening weekend. The film, based on "MTV's Spring Break," cost \$8 million to make.

Mariah Carey announced her Charm Bracelet World Tour Monday. The singer will make stops in

Japan and France before beginning the North American leg of the tour in Anchorage, Alaska July 18. It is Carey's first tour in three years.

Sarah Michelle Gellar and the cast of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" will end the seven-year series May 20 on UPN.

Luke Perry, former star of "Beverly Hills, 90210," announced his separation from wife Minnie Sharp. Perry will join fellow co-stars Jason Priestley and Shannen Doherty on "Beverly Hills, 90210: 10-Year High School Reunion," scheduled to air on Fox May 11.

Elaine Steinbeck, the widow of author John Steinbeck, died Monday at the age of 88 from natural causes. Since her husband's death in 1968, Steinbeck has been editing his volumes of work and speaking on his behalf. John Steinbeck is known best for his novels "Of Mice and Men" and "The Grapes of Wrath."

Information compiled from Entertainment Weekly, the Washington Post, BBC News, NME.com and USA Today.

Ari Hest will perform Friday

Greg Robson

Reporter

With the latest swell of young acoustic based singer/songwriters burgeoning onto the rock music scene, Ari Hest's album "Story After Story" is sure to find success. Hest will bring his live set to 9 p.m. in McKinnon Hall Friday.

The 23-year-old New York City native has been traveling the country since his days in college supporting his albums "Incomplete" and "Came Home."

Hest grew up in the Bronx the son of a music professor and a professional singer. He found his escape from the cliques of school playing Pearl Jam and Smashing Pumpkins. A few years later he honed his craft taking inspiration from Dave Matthews and the late Jeff

Buckley.

Curb Magazine recently hailed "Story After Story," calling it "the album that will propel Hest into the company of today's great singer songwriters."

His sampler CD contains a few of his original songs with covers. Hest's easy-going sound combines soft lyrics and rolling guitar riffs. His voice is reminiscent of Matthews. Hest draws a parallel comparison to John Mayer's style before Mayer's music went mainstream.

Hest's live covers of Squeeze's "Tempted" and Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" are sure signs that a live performance by Hest will be relaxed and enjoyable.

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