

MEDEA / THE DUMB WAITER

Intellectual Theatre

By Stormie Campbell

On March 26, 27 & 28, the WCC Theatre Department presented an evening of two student directed shows, *Medea* and *The Dumb Waiter*. The shows were performed on the Walker Center stage in a modified version of Theatre in the Round, initially called 300 Theatre. There was also a special Preview Performance on Wednesday, the 25th at 8 p.m. for \$2.

The first show was Euripides' *Medea*, and was directed by Shawn Harmon. This 45 minute adapted version of the Greek tragedy was a guaranteed whirlwind of spectacle and talent. This age-old tale of a woman scorned was a feast for the eyes and an accurate portrayal of the roots of theatre. The show was stage managed by Alan Seales, and the cast included Louise Hanville as Medea, Nick Asa as Jason, Beth Parent as the Nurse, Carlos Garcia as Aegis, Mike Hanville as Creon, Heather Dean as Chorus, the children played by Caleb Hawkins and Bo Caudill, plus numerous dancers. Make-up was done by Chad Reeves.

The second show, *The Dumb Waiter* by Harold Pinter, was a Theatre of the Absurd classic. It was considered a Comedy of Menace because it was a casual play with something sinister lurking beyond the play's set. The show was directed by Nat Padgett, who cast two females, Crystal Dean and Stormie Campbell, as Ben and Gus - the two hitmen that the show was about. This was guaranteed to be thought provoking and an intense theatre experience. The show was stage managed by Chad Reeves.



The cast of "Oh, What a Tangled Web." Left to right: Stormie Campbell, Dr. Karen Staten, Carlos Garcia and Cliff LeCornu. This play was a part of the Sweetheart Dinner Production.

Batting For the Drama Department

By Shelley Schreiber

Unless you're involved with the drama department or with the baseball team, you may not realize that we have a new batting cage which is housed in the basement under the stage in the Walker Center. The strange, unlikely mix of athletics and performing arts together in one, close space has resulted in grumblings of discontent around campus.

Personally, I had only heard one side of the story and set out to get the facts by interviewing Dr. Rita Rodabaugh, the Dean of Instruction.

The "bottom line" here is that space is at a premium for all at WCC right now. "Unfortunately, even though we have a huge, new building, we didn't gain a lot of actual classroom space. So what we were trying to do is work as best we could, together, to get the most use out of the space we have," Dr. Rodabaugh told me.

Why do we need a batting cage at all?

Wes Scroggs, the newly appointed athletic director, is trying to build up our athletic teams, so we have a lot of students who came to WCC this year specifically to play certain sports. One of them is baseball. The students enrolled for these teams have required classes with the required number of hours to complete. One of these classes involves batting practice. When this class is mandatory in the spring semester, it's hard to get in the required number of hours to complete the class if it's raining, cold and windy outside. This year's weather has been especially hard on us.

What was needed was a place to practice inside and an area that has a very high ceiling and is wide enough for the students to bat. One of the few areas on campus that fit this criteria was in the basement of the Walker Center. The gym, although large enough, was not a reasonable choice. It is usually scheduled for various sorts of other classes and activities; basketball games, volleyball intramurals, aerobics and self-defense classes, plus high school and community usage. Another reason to not use the gym is that the batting cage can't be assembled and disassembled, just slid from one space to another and that would ruin the newly refinished gym floor.

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