

Play Review

A Doll's House

Revival Productions give a playgoer the opportunity to see an already established classic. But the revival's outcome can have either positive or negative effects. The playgoer may leave the production wondering how that particular play ever became a regarded classic in the first place or the revival may strengthen that play's recognized position in literary history.

Salem College helped to reaffirm a play's reputation as a classic when the Pierette players presented Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" in the Drama Workshop March 15-18.

Considering the limited resources a small girl's school's drama group has to work with, I think the production here went very well. Of course there are always a few things one could complain about. These would include a rather crowded set that was not at all beneficial in accomodating the dance scene.

While issuing just a few complaints, I might add that though the leading lady played her part very well there was one thing that did bother me. This may seem relatively insignificant but nonetheless it still detracted from the overall effect of the production. I'm referring mainly to Nora's simplistic appearance in the play. Nora is described as a very attractive woman, very conscious of her appearance and it seems that the costuming department could have played this idea up a little more effectively by elaborating on Nora's representation.

Ibsen's well known "Doll's House" is presented in three acts. The first two are concerned with Nora's still childlike behavior and the third act has Nora finally reaching a belated maturity. The transition in Nora's character is very sharp and sudden, it may be all too sudden. But this flaw in the text can be dealt with by an experienced and sensitive actress.

Becky Baggett has shown a consistent flair for acting in her previous roles. In the part of Nora she continues to exhibit her talent. At first Nora appears to be flighty and immature but she can also be a likable character if played correctly. Nora's personality traits could easily be over played so much that she becomes annoying. But I think Becky played Nora's husband's "little lark" to the limit and showed how winning a character Nora can be.

Nora enjoys captivating her husband, she willingly becomes his "little lark" but she is obviously aware of her future - that she won't be a child much longer. It seems as if she expected the villain Krogstad's arrival juxtaposed right after she stated how happy her life was. He is involved in Nora's secret concerning the forgery and he



Nora Pleads With Torvald

will contribute to her drastic change another force behind the change is Nora's enlightened confidant Kristine.

After the second act, Nora's fleeting but enchanting smile has vanished. In its place she bears a hardened expression. Nora has realized she must undergo a change in character and life style. But at the conclusion of the play the audience is unsure of what the change will bring about for Nora. Therefore, the actress must convince the audience that the change in Nora's life is possible and good. In the final scene, Becky's portrayal of Nora does exhibit a confidence that proves the change is for the best.

The husband, Torvald, played by George Lee, is a rather ignorant, unlikable man. He is actually of weaker character than Nora and Mr. Lee reveals this in the final scene when he shows that Torvald is really in the dream world, not Nora.

Lucy Luckhardt, with her confident stage presence worked well with the forthright character of Nora's worldly-wise friend, Kristine. The villain figure, Krogstad and the comically melancholic, Dr. Rank were also well played by Mark Wright and R. Nathan Sikes respectively. Jenny Lasley and Sherce Worrell did very well as supporting actresses. Of course the audience's reception of the adorable children proved how well they performed.

"A Doll's House" was an excellent choice for a Salem College production since it does deal so effectively with the idea of women's independence. All in all, I think the pierettes should be commended for their work on "A Doll's House." They have proved themselves to be an adapt group of actresses.

Missy Littleton



Last Minute Preparations



Matthew, Ian and Amanda

News Beyond The Square

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania - Engineers at the nuclear plant site in Pennsylvania are preparing to bring the Three Mile Island reactor to a safe condition.

Federal investigators said Wednesday that two valves mistakenly left closed prompted the power plant accident. This was one of three errors that were cited by federal investigators. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top official Harold Denton and other N.R.C.

officials said that leaving the valves closed deprived the plant of a back up cooling system that could have taken over when the primary pump failed. The auxiliary system had been maintained two weeks prior to the accident and the officials said the manual valves were left closed by mistake. NRC officials also said that later an operator turned off the plants main emergency core-

cooling system at the wrong time. A third mistake was cited as being the disengagement of four standby water pumps when there was no apparent reason for them not to be working. Denton said the preferred plan for cooling down the reactor would take 10 days to end all danger.

The plan was being evaluated but had not yet been approved.

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