

## Cast of *The Innocents* chills and thrills audiences

I entered the Studio Theatre of Jones Auditorium for the production of *The Innocents* on Saturday night and did not expect the scenery to be so exquisite. The Victorian drawing-room set in an English house in 1880 was so inviting and so warm looking with its carved wood fireplace and oriental wool rugs.

I seated myself on the right side of the audience, and my assumption that I had ample view of the whole stage was wrong. An usher came to my side and offered me the hint that most of the action took place around the garden door entry, which was to the right of the stage. I was unable to see the garden door entry clearly from my angle. My friend and I quickly moved to the center of the front row minutes before the lights dimmed, signaling the play was about to begin.

While the audience and I were anticipating the appearance of the char-

acters and stage lights, the sound of a young girl singing an eerie and mysterious song was heard. I was immediately excited to see what this psychological thriller was to be about.

The song ended as abruptly as it began, and the stage lit up, showing a young girl in her elementary school years seated at the piano practicing a short song. The housekeeper entered the room and busily began dusting and straightening up the area for the arrival of the children's new governess, Miss Giddens.

I was surprised at how well both the adults and children mastered the English accents. There were only four

major characters: Mrs. Grose, the housekeeper (Rebecca Daw); Miss Giddens (Elizabeth Baldwin); and Flora and Miles, the children. The play was mainly centered around the other two characters, Peter Quint (Andre Corbin) and Miss Jessel (Lindsay Bean) who were apparitions of previously hired overseers of the children that came back to corrupt the children once again.

There was intense acting among the characters. The two acts were filled with mystique and fear that sent chills down my spine and left chill bumps on my arms. The superb appearance of the apparition of Miss Jessel seemed so real that a person behind me let out a

little scream.

Dr. John Creagh, the head of the speech and communications department, did an excellent job directing this thriller, and the actors and actresses were wonderful. The young actors Ginny Rodgers and Patrick Marsh, who played Flora and Miles, never appeared nervous or forgot their lines. I have never attended a play that possessed such an intense climax; I couldn't wait for intermission to end and act two to begin!

*The Innocents* was written by William Archibald but is based on *The Turn of the Screw*, a short novel by Henry James. So if you didn't get a chance to see this four-star performance by Meredith Performs, the novel will give a general picture of how frighteningly wonderful this play was.

### Shannon Peterson play review

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There was an announcement in the fall issue of the Meredith Magazine about the possible publication of Carlyle Campbell's Chapel Talks. Dr. Campbell was President of Meredith College from 1941-1967. During this time, Campbell taped his speeches and hired students to type them out. Many times the students could not understand Campbell's vocabulary and left many blanks in the typed speeches. Dr. Norma Rose, professor emeritus of the English department, is presently sorting out Campbell's chapel talks and filling in the missing blanks.

Mary Lily Gaddy has formed a committee to compile these chapel talks. The committee, consisting of Mary Lily Gaddy, Elizabeth Hostetler Chamblee, Rachel Poe Thomas, Annie Laurie Overton Pomeranz, Mary Bland Josey and Eleanor Jordan, meet in the Alumnae House. Chairperson Gaddy said, "We have identified and put into action the steps necessary for publishing the book, and I am excited about the prospect of actually holding a copy in my hands."