

Humor, hysteria mark play

■ PlayMakers' season opener, "Cymbeline," is comical, if problematic.

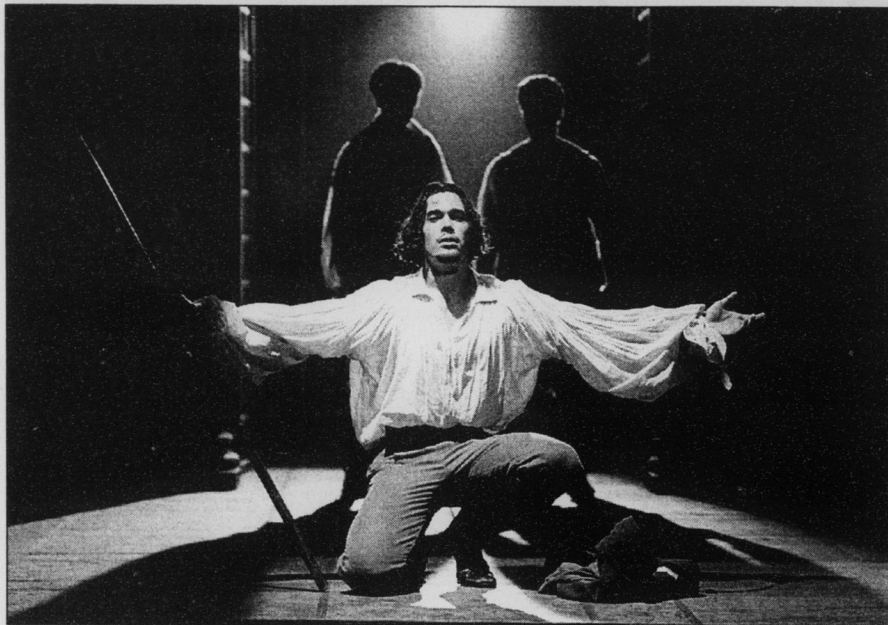
A fresh approach can sometimes prevent the tried-and-true from becoming the trying-and-trite. For the most part, this is the case with the current PlayMakers Repertory Company production of "Cymbeline," a little-performed work by William Shakespeare that draws heavily on the warmed-over literary traditions of English and Italian fairy tales.

Fortunately the play is full of the ludicrous clowns, defeated villains and spirited sense of fun that are the unique pleasures of a Shakespeare comedy. Guest director Tazewell Thompson has brought a creative team of set, costume and lighting designers together with the original compositions of Fabian Obispo to make "Cymbeline" a feast for the senses. The effect is an ambitious, amusing theater experience if one is willing to suspend disbelief just a bit, especially at the play's conclusion.

On a beautifully simple set evoking the stylized realms of England and Rome, "Cymbeline" opens with the separation of its two lover protagonists, the princess Imogen (Christina Rouner) and her banished husband Leonatus Posthumous (Matthew Greer), and ends as they reunite with the blessing of King Cymbeline (Ray Dooley).

LILY THAYER

Theater Review
"Cymbeline"
PlayMakers
Repertory Company



Presuming his wife dead by his own orders, Matthew Greer, as Posthumous, goes into battle hoping to be killed as well. Greer is a cast member in the PlayMakers Repertory Company production of Shakespeare's "Cymbeline."

As the beleaguered but headstrong heroine, Rouner's expressive face, alto voice and tall stature seem better suited to comedy than romance. With her distracting cloud of blond hair she seems to dwarf the smaller, darker Greer. He spends the last scene as a prop for Rouner, smiling giddily as she flits from his passionate embrace to the arms of her father and her two, of course, long-lost brothers. Greer's nonromantic scenes are also his best; he gives a credible portrayal of the Italian hero-type misdirected by his own chivalry.

The characters who really galvanize the production are those who are potentially the most odious. Although they both give troubled performances, Julie Fishell as Cymbeline's conniving Queen and Cleve Lamison as the ultimately repentant villain Iachimo are memorable.

The stereotypical evil stepmother, Fishell delivers her lines at a constant fever pitch. She is Lady Macbeth on amphetamines, a magnetic, if melodramatic and cloying, presence on the stage.

Lamison, a striking figure in an alligator vest, seems to be touched by a small case of stage jitters, the only blot in a clever portrayal of gleeful malice. When he allows himself to be unrestrained, he is seductive and convincing as the villain who wreaks havoc in Cymbeline's court.

The audience, however, is set up by John Plumpis's characterization of the Queen's ridiculous son Cloten; he's having such a good time being a sniveling, Napoleonic patsy in knee britches, we can't help but like him the best. Rejected by Imogen and his claim to the throne nonexistent, he meets a gruesome and ironic end at the hand of the true princes

who have been raised in a cave by the banished lord Belarius for 20 years. We're sad to see him go (and happy to see Plumpis return in a cameo as Posthumous' morbidly humorous jailer).

In its pursuit of emotional power, "Cymbeline"'s dramatic train derails into such unintentionally humorous scenes as the appearance of Jupiter in a silly primitive god get-up and a Broadway-esque chorus number mourning the alleged death of Imogen. These shortcomings are, however, as much the fault of the playwright for piling on the twists as they are of the producers who chose not to downplay the ridiculous.

The intentional humor of the production is deftly timed and wonderfully executed. It does much more than just save the play from itself; it makes "Cymbeline" a lively and worthwhile time.

Magazine selects senior as top 10 college woman

BY HILARY FRANKLIN
STAFF WRITER

Student body Vice President Lindsay Rae McIntyre had no idea that her name would be plastered on the cover of Glamour magazine in local stores until she saw one of her instructors with the magazine in hand.

McIntyre was named one of the magazine's top 10 college women. The issue about the contest winners hit the stands Thursday.

"I was really surprised," said McIntyre. "I was staring at the magazine and I couldn't believe it. I went to Student Stores to buy the magazine, and there were three people in front of me with the magazine."

As one of the magazine's top 10 college women, McIntyre is enjoying a newfound celebrity status on campus.

McIntyre, a senior from Victoria, British Columbia, found out about the magazine contest last year and decided to give it a shot. "I'm always looking for ways to meet new people," said McIntyre. "I never thought I'd win."

But win is what she did. To apply, she submitted three letters of recommendation, a list of her extracurricular activities and an essay about her most meaningful leadership experience. For McIntyre, this experience is her work with the deaf community. McIntyre began by teaching herself sign language when she was 15.

"I had seen two deaf people signing to each other and thought to myself, 'that language is so beautiful,'" McIntyre said.

McIntyre is now a sign language interpreter on campus and teaches a non-credit American Sign Language and Deaf Culture class twice a week.

"I think my involvement with the deaf community makes me unique and that makes me unique to other people," she said.

This uniqueness attracted the magazine's selection committee members. They learned about McIntyre's activities with deaf children, which included creating a sports camp, going on an international youth tour as an interpreter and working for the vice president of Gallaudet University, the only college for the deaf in the United States.

This past summer, McIntyre traveled to Zimbabwe to teach deaf students at a residential institution, when her mother faxed her the news that she had been chosen as one of the winners of the Glamour magazine contest.

She flew to New York City in August to meet the other contest winners, as well as Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, author Dani Shapiro and the cast members of a Broadway musical.

"The weekend in New York was a unique opportunity," she said. "Spending time with the other college winners was a lot of fun and an enlightening experience because they're all such amazing women."

"Even now, I still have a hard time believing that's me in the magazine," she added. "Part of me is embarrassed, part of me is happy, and part of me is nervous. But I know I worked hard for it, so it's rewarding."

She suggested that all junior women apply for the contest.

"Sometimes you need to take a chance," she said. "Nobody in this world is going to pick you out. You need to go for what you want."



LINDSAY RAE MCINTYRE's work with the deaf community attracted Glamour magazine's judges.

Chapel Hill officials praise disaster efforts, learn from Hurricane Fran

BY MEGAN MEADOWS
STAFF WRITER

After Chapel Hill's battering during the deluge of wind and rain brought on by Hurricane Fran, the town has had time to assess its preparedness or lack thereof. Those in charge of hurricane relief and rescue seemed to concur when attributing much of the recovery to good communication.

"The disaster plan that had been worked on allowed us to get the infrastructure between Duke Power, ourselves and other resources to work on this," said Robert Bosworth, head of the Administrative Office of the Chapel Hill Fire Department. "We felt real good about that."

Several federal agencies were also involved to help speed up and monitor cleanup, said Bruce Heflin, director of Chapel Hill Public Works. "We had some National Guard working with us since (Sept. 8)," Heflin said.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Association had words of praise for Chapel Hill. "They said that we did a really good job," Bosworth said.

Bosworth said the town staff learns more about disaster preparations with every storm. "We got prepped up with the ice storms, but we keep learning," he said, referring to the unusually frigid winter of 1996.

However, sometimes preparation might not be enough. "No one can be prepared for a storm of this magnitude," said Heflin.

After the storm hit, the first order of

business for public works was to get roads cleared to allow traffic to flow smoothly. "We've been working since the storm started to remove trees, clear debris and open the streets," Heflin said. "That was our first priority, opening the streets."

Removing such a large amount of debris required many of the town staff's resources, Bosworth said. "We had a full staff around the clock," he said. "Two thirds of our department was working while the other third was at home trying to recoup. Human resources (was what made the difference)."

With 600 to 700 people without water, and many more without power, a total community effort was necessary. "I feel (the residents) have been very cooperative and helpful," Heflin said.

Those involved directly in the cleanup process said they were ready to handle the aftermath of Fran, Chapel Hill Public Works employee Steve Sharp said. "You can never be totally prepared for a disaster, but we knew what we had to do — we had a strong support staff."

University offers counseling in Fran's wake

BY KAITLIN GURNEY
STAFF WRITER

Perhaps that familiar thunder in the sky suddenly makes your heart lurch, or an ominous weather forecast makes your stomach flutter.

These psychological responses are perfectly normal following a natural disaster such as Hurricane Fran, said Erica Wise, director of Student Psychological Services.

"Hurricane Fran was a traumatic experience for students on campus during the storm, whether it was just the experience itself or an associated memory," Wise said. "It is necessary to talk, rather than be silent about it."

Wise said talking in the wake of a disaster is a natural, healthy response.

"Students need to discuss the event with friends and family," she said. "Sometimes you may think you've talked too much, but people usually know when to move on. Everyone responds differently."

Wise said students who were suffering from nightmares, flashbacks or other psychological reactions to Hurricane Fran should go to Student Health Service to talk to one of Psychological Services' providers.

"We would encourage the student to talk, offer support and discuss past experiences that might have made the hurricane particularly hard — basically some short-term counseling," she said.

Wise said psychologists gained a heightened understanding of the need for post-disaster counseling after observing rescue workers' reactions.

The Red Cross now requires a service called debriefing for their workers following disaster work.

A Red Cross Service Center for Orange County has been set up at the Homestead Center and will be open daily for hurricane relief.

"There is never a Red Cross shelter or service center opened without psychological personnel," said Caroline Schwartz, a public relations representative for the Red Cross. "There was psychiatric help available the night of the hurricane, and it is still available now."

Red Cross
Service Center
600 Homestead
Road
Chapel Hill
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Schwartz said anyone who came to the service center would have a one-on-one interview, and medical workers might make a long-term recommendation for counseling.

"When people come here they are distraught, and they bring their problems with them," Schwartz said.

Although many people have begun the recovery process, weather forecasts indicate that North Carolina might not be finished with hurricanes this season.

"People become sensitized," and have a stronger reaction to rain or a storm," Wise said. "It makes you feel less safe to think of another hurricane happening here, rather than just hearing about it in other places."

Wise said there would continue to be reminders of Hurricane Fran throughout the University and the Chapel Hill community.

"It is important to balance getting back to normal with acknowledging that a natural disaster occurred," she said. "Events like Chancellor Hooker's cleanup are a nice way of doing this and building community."

Campus Calendar

Monday

3:15 p.m. — The University Counseling Center in Nash Hall will hold a career clinic to help students choose a major or career.

4 p.m. — The Study Abroad Office will hold an information session on programs in the United Kingdom, including Edinburgh and Glasgow, Scotland in Union 205.

4:15 p.m. — The International Festival Planning Committee will hold its first organizational meeting in the Frank Porter Graham Lounge on the second floor of the Union.

6:30 p.m. — The UNC Young Democrats will meet in the Pit to conduct a voter registration drive on South Campus. All interested

students are welcome to attend.

6:30 p.m. — Campus Y's Red Ribbon (HIV/AIDS) committee is holding a general interest meeting in Union 206.

7 p.m. — The UNC Figure Skating Club will hold a meeting in 301 B Woolen Gym. Officers will be elected, so plan on being there!

7 p.m. — The first meeting of the semester for Operation Smile will be held in Union 209. New and old members are welcome.

7:30 p.m. — The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies will meet on the third floor of New West. Tonight's debate topic will be "Resolved: Tobacco Companies should be held liable for the aftereffects of their products on consumers."

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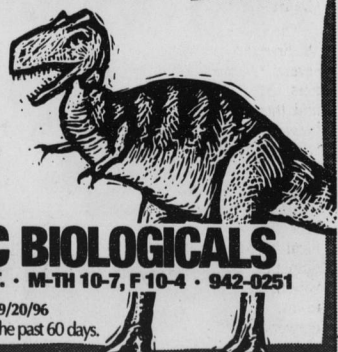
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