

Too Good To Be True

An Evening At George And Martha's

By KERRY SIPE DTH Staff Writer
'Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf' is an impossible motion picture.

best legitimate acting performance of any actress for the entire year.

It is impossible for a cast of four to carry on two and a half hours of dialogue successfully without losing a single member of its audience.

Having seen the Albee play in New York, I went off to see the picture half in fear that a bad production would ruin for me fond stage memories of one of the best stage plays I have ever seen.

Mike Nichols, who is a hundred times better as a director than he ever was as a comedian, has in this show discovered those dimensions and techniques which give motion pictures the advantage.

over all other mediums. 'Virginia Woolf' is not just a play staged in the presence of a camera. It is as broad and versatile as a motion picture can be.

The plot concerns a middle-aged history professor at a small New England College, who did one single ambitious thing in his life—marry the president's daughter.

This is about as far as one can go in describing a plot. Things happen as the night wears on. Wierd things. You have to be there to derive any meaning at all from them, and even then you're left in doubt about your conclusions.

One expects Richard Burton to do a good job with nearly any part he attempts. To say that he is excellent as George is like writing ditto marks beside his name.

Elizabeth Taylor, however, is a different story. For the first time Liz is more than a beautiful, stormy Maggie The Cat or a beautiful conniving Cleopatra. Martha is not beautiful in any way.

Liz's performance, I'd be willing to bet, was not without some tedious coaching by Nichols and her husband, but the fact is, she does achieve the part and with such professionalism that it is barely possible to believe that this is the sweet raven-haired girl who got her start co-sinistering with a horse.

George Segal and Sandy Dennis, who are Nick and Honi for the evening, are good in their parts, but serve primarily as sounding boards for the Burton family.

If I were Edward Albee and had written 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf' I'd be very pleased with what Warner Brothers has done with my play. The dialogue itself has been only slightly changed and the changes in production and staging were for the better without a single exception.

Shows Not To Miss

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BATMAN, Channel 5, 7 p.m. — Tonight's adventure is the conclusion of 'Barbecued Batman.' The minstrel plans to topple the stock exchange with a destructive sonic beam.

MOVIE, Channel 11, 10 p.m. — Tony Perkins and Janet Leigh star with Vera Miles in Alfred Hitchcock's great thriller 'Psycho.'

MILTON BERLE, Channel 5, 9 p.m. — Milton has Martha Raye, Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows along with Sam the Sham and the Pharoahs on his variety show tonight.

MOVIE, Channel 6, 11:30 p.m. — Gregory Peck and Susan Hayward star with Ava Gardner in Ernest Hemingway's 'Snows of Kilimanjaro.'

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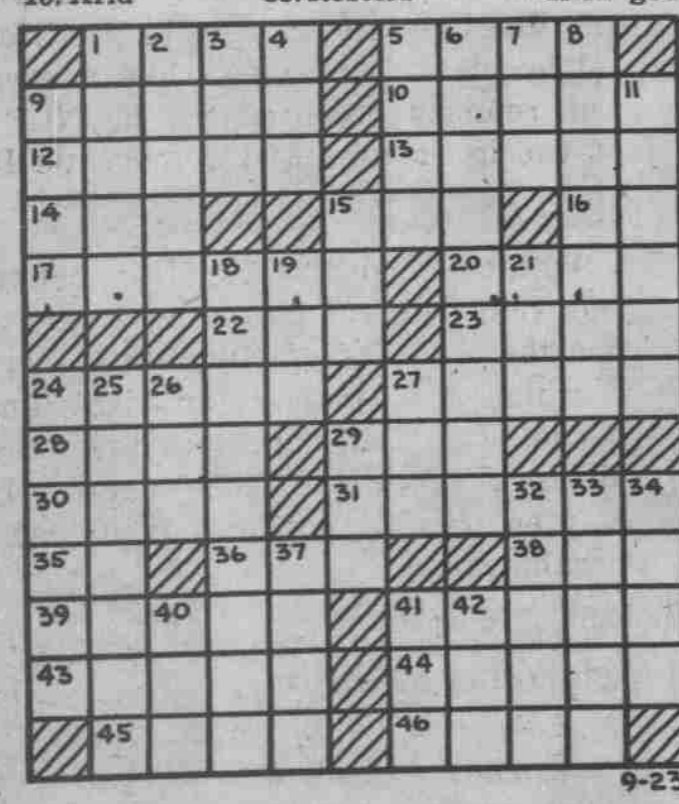
- ACROSS 1. Hint 5. Refuse of grapes 9. Salad ingredient 10. Constellation 12. Sharpened 13. Play 14. Piece out 15. Balmoral Castle's river 16. Football position: abbr. 17. To rankle 20. Dross of metal 22. Abounding in ore 23. Ocean's rise, fall 24. Scrub 27. Bishop's headdress 28. Suspend 29. Forbid 30. Daughter-in-law of Naomi 31. Arouses to wrath 35. And: Latin 36. Newt 38. Blue grass 39. Goddess of the hunt 41. Not clergy 43. Planted 44. Children of the Sun 45. Buntline, sparks, etc.

- DOWN 1. Strangle 2. Wires 3. Early refugee 4. Mummy 5. Fashion 6. Apprehending 7. Narrow inlet 8. Chum 9. Head cook 11. Persistent scolder 15. Arid

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