

Tar Heel Drama Review

'Paisley': Good, Dirty Fun

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
Tar Heel Reviewer

THE PAISLEY CONVERTIBLE. By Harry Cauley. Directed by Joe Shea. Now playing, Village Dinner Theatre.

The Paisley Convertible is the best sex comedy presented by the Village Dinner theatre this summer.

If that sounds like dubious praise, it is because no one can really get worked up about a frothy little bag of erotic innuendoes and New Morality stereotypes.

On the other hand, if all you want is escapist fun (and a few dirty jokes—quite good—on the side), then this sounds like the one to see.

Marked by the most skilled performances and the snappiest direction of the season, it's a funny, funny show. Until it gets a little tedious, that is.

But then every comedy gets a little tedious towards the end. You've been sitting still for two hours, and all the characters do is misinterpret the motives and actions of all the other characters.

It's sort of like those slapstick movies where everybody is chasing every body else and one door closes just as another opens and nobody finds anybody.

Or like the silly husband-and-wife spats (this is the case here) where you want to say: "Stop, dammit! Just sit down and talk everything out and you'll see you're all mistaken and things'll be okay."

The actors finally do that and the play is over.

But on the way to that inevitable hop-in-the-bed finale, the "misinterpretations" are hilariously enacted by those involved.

The paisley convertible is not a car, but a sofa-bed. The plot concerns the age-old question of Who's Been Sleeping With Whom? but somehow it doesn't seem age-old with this company.

Charlie (Neil Alan) and Amy (Nancy Petocchi) are newly-married, each obsessed with the other's sexual history. Bring out their ex-companions (lovers, they question?), toss in the mother-in-law, and that's your recipe for a dinner party and a play.

Alan is good and Miss

Petocchi somewhat weaker, but the supporting characters are terrific.

Ila Jerom plays the mother-in-law like she's never seen a mother-in-law on stage before. And that's good!

Russell T. Gossett and Judy Wisman as the former boy- and girl-friends of the couple are much better than their lines (which are good). Gossett's dum-dum physical nut and Miss Wisman's dry-witted bitch (they said it, I didn't) are honest and funny people.

Nearly every actor received hearty applause—not only in the curtain calls, but as they made their final exits within the play.

Congratulations, group. For once, you've got a play to match your superb dinner buffet.

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