

Green 'Willow' Is Tragic Celebration

By-KEN RIPLEY

SING ALL A GREEN WILLOW was a tragedy, but not in the way Paul Green meant it to be.

The "satiric fantasy of American life" intended to be a glorious pivotal point of the Playmaker's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, attended Friday night by newspaper critics from prominent papers, was a painful disappointment.

The fault lied not so much in the actors, among whom were several fine performances, but in the play itself.

Meant as a satire on the superstitious and fanatical churches in the south and their oppressive and harmful effect on the people, Green managed to drive his message into the ground, where he then proceeded to stomp on it.

The play came off as a caricature of something in society that is itself a caricature of religion. But what could have been a valid, scathing denunciation of religious bigotry and oppressiveness sizzled out. The play died, among other things, from a lack of depth.

SING ALL A GREEN WILLOW was a shallow farce that without its gimmickry and some actually funny material would have been boring and susceptible to charges of bad-taste and heavyhandedness.

The characters were shallowly conceived, and their relationships with each other were surface moments. There is no sense of tragedy in the death of Christine because the play has become by the end such a broad-stroked statement that the audience has not had the chance to really become involved.

Likewise, Brother Joseph's symbolic crucifixion at the end, a mockery which either symbolizes his inner destruction or the destruction of true religion, becomes not a moving statement of condemnation but a tasteless, melodramatic touch best forgotten.

Also painful was the obvious waste of talent going into the play. Guest artist James Secrest was excellent, but his part wasn't particularly worthy. Carol Erskine, who played Christine, was very good, although at first sometimes a bit overpowering.

The acting throughout the cast, although they were working with weak roles, was generally good. Joel Carter as the preacher, Ian O'Connell and Elizabeth Tanner as Christine's parents, and Ben Jones and Priscilla Speare as Shad's moonshiner parents were all notable performances.

Offering humorous bright spots were the two preacher's assistants, played by Joe Hudgins and Eric Ellenburg, who both were excellent, and the preacher's patient horse, Old Nick, played fore and aft by Ben Harris and William Hill. Old Nick had, incidentally, some of the sharpest comments in the play as well as the funniest.

Caroline Lane as an old, sanctified woman, and William Hill, as an idiot, were two noticeable standouts in the church scene in the second act, involving the large 50-member cast.

Jubilee, Christine's pet buzzard which pops up from time to time throughout the play, was fun. The old bird was played by Douglas Brock.

Samuel Selden, for what he had to work with, did a good job of directing his players. There were a few places where characters blocked the audience's view and hindered whatever effect the scene had, but Selden probably got the most that can be gotten out of the play for his actors.

The special effects of the play were excellent. The dream sequences were fantastic, showing excellent movie production and photography by Earl Wynn and Terry Rushin and excellent technical integration into the play.

The music throughout the play, including hymns and folk bawdy's by the Skeritt family was excellent, well directed by Benjamin Keaton and well done by the actors.

The setting, costumes, and lighting by Tom Rezzuto, Irene Rains, and Jack Shirk respectively, were also entertaining and effective. The entire Playmaker staff, both actors and production staff, went all out to do a bang-up job for this big celebration.

It just goes to show, sadly, that acting, sets, effects, and music cannot make a play without a decent play to work with. SING ALL A GREEN WILLOW, according to society's standards, remained decent, but a good play it isn't.

Sight-Sound Show Talks McLuhanism

An adventure in sight and sound? There was one at Howell Hall Thursday night, and most students didn't know what "hit" them.

Dr. I. Wilmer (Will) Counts, assistant journalism professor at Indiana University, presented a photographic and sound interpretation of Marshall McLuhan's "The Medium is the Massage".

A short explanation of McLuhan's ideas about audio-visual, non-word, communication was followed by "sensory involvement" for the audience.

Pictures flashed on and off screens as voices and sounds reverberated around the hall.

Dr. Counts said interest in "non-verbal communication" has grown across the country in recent years.

Some popular music groups use audio-visual communication techniques to involve their audience. Psychologists, linguists, and communication students also find it useful in the academic world.

McLuhan's ideas have been a "catalyst for people's interest," said Dr. Counts.

"The invention of type created linear, or sequential, thought, separating thought from action," said McLuhan. Dr. Counts pointed out that today's medium, electric circuitry, has made it "possible to perceive a message instantly. Ours is a brand-new world of allatonce-ness."

Dr. Counts received his A.B. from Arkansas State College and Ph.D. from Indiana University. His specialty is photography and picture editing. His 1957 Little Rock riot pictures received top photographic awards.

The program was one in the Journalism Lecture Series.

... But Crinkley's New 'Bacchae' Production Explodes With Freedom, Life, Drama And 'Release Of Tension'

By SAM PORTARO

"The Bacchae", in its new translation by Anthony Holden directed by Richmond Crinkley, is a play which one does not actually view, but experiences. James Residence College and the Carolina Union are to be commended for their willingness to share this experience with us.

Written by Euripides, "The Bacchae" is the dramatic portrayal of a culture inebriated by religion. Bacchus, the Roman god of wine, returns from India to Thebes where he finds King Pentheus determined to end the orgiastic rites of the Bacchantes, who are led by Pentheus' mother, Agave. In an effort to observe their rites, Pentheus climbs into the branches of a tree, is discovered by his mother, and is killed by the same woman who gave him life. Agave, mistaking Pentheus for a wild animal, is not aware of her son's deed until the head of her son is brought to her.

This production, as the program stated, "neither begins nor ends." One simply walked into the lives of the characters who are engaged in mirror exercises at various points around the hall. There was a short period of tension as one tried to decide what to do with himself. There were several mattresses scattered on the floor and a few large wooden boxes placed at random. While settling down to a position on the bare wood floor, the sound of "Whistle While You Work" came from one of the black-clad players. This little tidbit of Disney-Americana hinted that this was going to be no ordinary evening. Dionysus (the Greek name for Bacchus) entered in his dual form, man and god, and proceeded to release the Thebans from the grasp of their city. As Dionysus kissed each individual the mirror images faded and each Theban reacted freely to the awareness of his freedom and individuality.

From the point of entry, one was seized by the freedom so aptly depicted by the choreography of the production. The combined efforts of lighting director Jeff Etchberger, designers Dennis Maulden and Joe Conger, and

photographer Dick Duane left no resource untapped. Their contributions transformed the Great Hall of the Carolina Union into an experiential cell, completely engulfing the audience into the play.

Anthony Holden's translation of "The Bacchae" is beautifully punctuated with snatches of dialect and famous literature. Humor abounded in John Secore's breathless messenger who delivered his

lines in an impersonation of W.C. Fields. A ripple of chilled laughter passed through the audience when the blind seer, Tiresias, skillfully portrayed by co-director Jed Dietz, delivered his hauntingly familiar

paraphrase, "Take up your staff and follow me, Cadmus." Richard Worster was excellent in his portrayal of King Pentheus. He strode onto the floor, royally attired in the shiny black boots of power and the purple of royalty. Margaret Howell, as Agave, was a striking priestess and handled her role deftly. One of the finest moments in the production was that wherein Cadmus, Agave's father (adeptly played by Joe Hullender) revealed to her the truth that it was her hand that murdered Pentheus. Emerging from her madness, Agave cradled the dead Pentheus, recreating the pose of the Pieta.

Special commendation goes to Robin Moyer, who assumed the role of Dionysus the god, and Malcolm Groome, Dionysus the mortal. Moyer moved through the action competently, radiating a wealth of expressions which enhanced the Olympian half of Dionysus. Groome played the puppet-mortal half of the

god and so masterfully acted his part that one was scarcely aware of the duality of the god. These actors both appalled and enthralled the audience as they displayed the self-love of Dionysus through gestures and caresses. Groome's delivery of the Jabberwock from Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" over the action of the murder of Pentheus was a striking instance of the usual liberty which Holden has taken in the translation of this play.

The final scene, in which "the Bacchantes carry the worship of Dionysus throughout the world" was the epitome of audience identification. As a strobe light slashed away at the darkness, the dual god was wheeled, statue-like, into the center of the floor and the entire hall was filled with the highly-amplified music of the Thursday Grief.

Those who missed this production will never realize the totality of this valuable contribution.

'2001': Success Or Flop?

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY closes its run today at the Carolina Theatre.

Praise and damnation have greeted the film, which garnered Oscar nominations for

its director (Stanley Kubrick), story and screenplay (Kubrick and Arthur Clarke), art direction and special visual effects.

Audiences have been receptive, but critics are sharply divided. For example...

Gene Youngblood, L.A. Free Press—"... a masterpiece... an unspeakably beautiful motion picture, a triumph of surpassing technical mastery and probing thematic eloquence."

The Village Voice—"... a thoroughly uninteresting failure and the most damning demonstration yet of Stanley Kubrick's inability to tell a story coherently and with a consistent point of view."

Penelope Gilliat, The New Yorkerr—"... some sort of great film, and an unforgettable endeavor."

Stanley Kauffman, The New Republic—"... a major disappointment... in the first 30 seconds this film gets off on the wrong foot and... never recovers."

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Campus Events

Varsity Tennis Match at 2 p.m., Varsity Tennis Courts. UNC vs. East Carolina.

Varsity Baseball Game at 3 p.m. on the baseball field beside Avery Dorm. UNC vs. Cornell University.

Any Yack Sweetheart who wishes to have a color print of her picture may order one by stopping by the Yack Office in the Union.

AFS Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Dey Hall to complete plans for the AFS weekend. All involved please attend.

Tuesday Evening Concert Series presents the UNC Concert Band, conducted by Major John Yesulaitis, at 8 p.m. in Hill Hall.

Income Tax Information, 1040 and 1040A forms filled out with Fussy.

Hollywood (UPI) - Cary Grant says he will not do another movie until the right property comes along - and it's been two years since his last film.

New Cosby Series Hollywood (UPI) - Bill Cosby's new comedy television series scheduled for next fall will be filmed at Warner Bros.

intent to save you money. Call 967-2803 in evenings.

Student Consumer Cards are available at the Union Information Desk.

Contributions for the senior scholarship should be sent to: 1969 Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1080, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Anyone interested in finding travelling companions for this summer should leave his name and address at the International Student Center.

Staff Members Needed for Brownie and Junior unit of the Girl Scout Day Camp at Marion Hill, lovely wooded site behind the Community Church. A two-week session will be held four days a week from June 16th to 26th, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be training for all staff in April and May, much of it on the site. Training will emphasize the Girl Scout program in the out of doors.

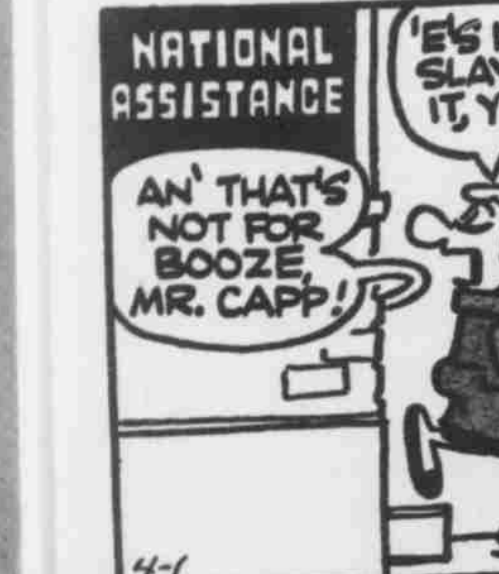
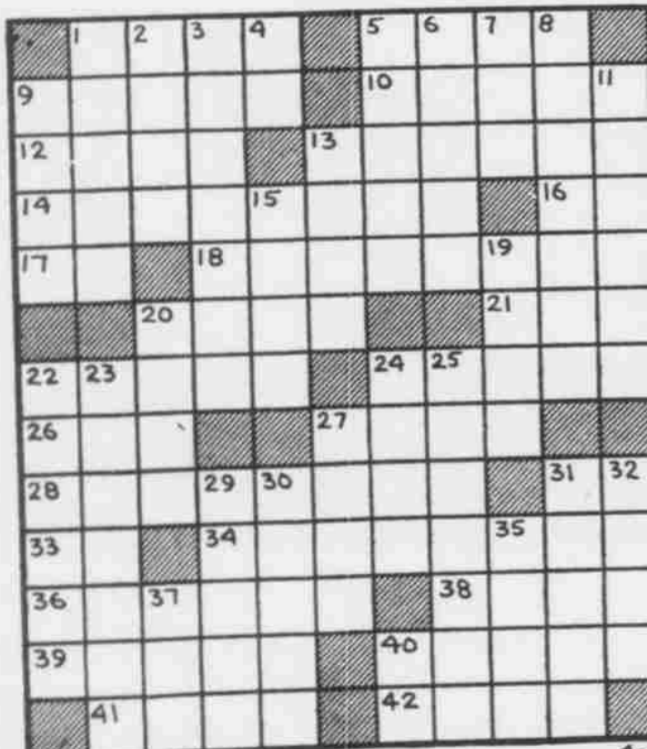
For applications and further information, please call Mrs. William Pollitzer, 942-2568.

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1. Visage
- 5. Disfigurement
- 9. Laments
- 10. Stories
- 12. Arm bone
- 13. Kind of cake
- 14. Migrator
- 16. Useful Latin abbreviation
- 17. Power
- 18. Furnished, as aid
- 20. Languish
- 21. Maria
- 22. Numerate
- 24. Emulated Brando
- 26. Suitable
- 27. God of love
- 28. Fastened once more, as a rug
- 31. In this way
- 33. Land measure
- 34. Baker's need: 2 wds.
- 36. Postpones, as a resolution
- 38. Nuptial obligation
- 39. Eyelid problems
- 40. McCarthy and Kelly
- 41. Listening devices

- DOWN
- 1. Hazy
- 2. Hindu fire god
- 3. Mortification
- 4. Plural ending
- 5. Booth
- 6. Blanche's companion
- 7. Vestment
- 8. Ease
- 9. Fat
- 11. Planted
- 13. Lion or horse hair
- 15. Overhead item
- 19. Double-crossers
- 20. Golf stroke
- 22. Precious weights
- 23. Manage
- 24. Tract
- 25. Pampered
- 27. Adds to, little by little
- 29. More competent
- 30. Salad green
- 31. Keeps
- 32. Units
- 35. Lagoon
- 37. Sister
- 40. Leave

Yesterday's Answer



New Service Sorority Initiates Twenty-One

The following girls have been selected as charter members of GSS, the girls' service club on campus. This group hopes eventually to become a chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma, the National Service Sorority.

Desiree Carlson (St. Paul, Minn.); Lee Ann Deshaies (Chapel Hill); Jani Gillespie (Lexington, Mass.); Pam Green (Mt. Gilead). Susan Hardy (Beaufort, S.C.); Jan Hirschberg (Miami, Fla.); Mary Louis Hill (Rural Hall); Ruth Ihne (Martinsville, N.J.); Margaret Johnson (Raleigh). Carolyn Krisulewicz (Raleigh); Louise Lampron (Salisbury); Anne Ludlow (Arlington, Va.); Linda Mace (Marion); Pat Murphy (Fayetteville). Pat Neufeld (Cullowhee); Mary Ann Padgett (Fayetteville); Gail Sanders (Charlotte); Carol Saylor (Decatur, Ga.); Linda Stuntz (Annapolis, Md.); Cindy Webb (Chapel Hill); and Jennie Yarborough (High Point).

PRE-VACATION BLAST UPSTAIRS AT THE DOWNSTAIRS Proudly Presents "Will! You Still Love Me Tomorrow" "Soldier Boy" THE SHIRELLES "Tonight's The Night" "Everybody Loves A Lover" WED. APRIL 2 8:00 'til 12:00 Start early! Get in shape for the beach. Tickets on Sale at Burgner's Music Store 418 Franklin Street Student Tickets \$2.00 At the Door \$3.00

Your last check from home just bounced? Think it over, over coffee. The Think Drink. (Image of a hand holding a mug)