

'Hedda' scores in Lab

by Rick Sebak
Staff Writer

Student directors in the UNC Lab Theatre have seldom dared to tackle important modern theatre classics, obligingly bending before the difficulties of casting, staging, and producing a work of genuine merit. Recent weeks, however, have seen productions of works by Shaw and Genet, and this week Gregory Hurst is presenting Henrik Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, in the basement of Graham Memorial. With an admirable collection of acting talent, he has created an interesting spark of life and a captivating Lab presentation which merits both serious student attention and a great deal of praise.

Using Christopher Hampton's crisp and modern translation of the 1890 play, and the usual Lab Show minimum of stage paraphernalia, Hurst has managed to find a style and pace which permit a fresh approach

to the work, and several extraordinarily fine performances result from this combination.

Donna Davis successfully presents many of the facets and inner reflections of the title character, which many consider to be an actress' greatest challenge. Her Hedda is at times elegantly cool, naturally relaxed, skillfully intense, and consistently intriguing. Portraying a profoundly intricate woman, she provides the play with its necessary basic source of energy and tension.

George Tesman, Hedda's husband and a "fairly innocuous" academic, is played by Jim Burleson, who takes full advantage of an often dull and easily discarded role. Burleson makes Tesman an appropriately weak contrast to Hedda, and he manages to find levels and moments which a less skillful actor might never have noticed.

As always, Dallas Greer succeeds in capturing the magic spark of his character,

and as Eilert Lovborg, he projects not only the potential genius of the man, but he manages to flash the bacchanalian gleam in the reformed man's eyes.

The women in the play interact with a remarkable and vibrant vitality. Nancy Boykins is genuine and inspiring as Thea Elvsted, and her scenes with Hedda are tantalizingly electric. As George's Aunt Julia, Margot Corrigan produces an aged vigor which perfectly characterizes the role.

The show is not completely flawless, but any errors or inconsistencies in the production have been compensated for by overall excellence and intriguing style. The magic and sparkle of this mounting, the high quality of these performances, and the impressive UNC directorial debut of Gregory Hurst make *Hedda Gabler* an intellectually stimulating high point in a consistently interesting and worthwhile season.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Cinema

"Wedding in Blood"—A classic love/murder triangle involving two killings among husbands and wives of the French bourgeoisie is stunningly filmed by Claude Chabrol, who did "Le Boucher" and who has often been called the French Hitchcock "of the domestic crime of passion." Andrew Sarris, in the Village Voice, called it "the most brilliant new movie of the year," and, like all Chabrol films, it is laden with ominous sexuality and dread. (Today at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Saturday at 2, 7 and 9:30 p.m., Greenlaw Auditorium, \$1.50, the Alternative Cinema.)

"The Best of Bogart"—Some of Bogey's best flicks are included in this series sponsored by the Campus Program Council. "The Harder They Fall" shows at 8 p.m. Friday in Chase Cafeteria and "Casablanca" at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday in Hamilton. Free passes may be picked up from dorm governors and fraternally or sorority presidents. Those without passes will be admitted with a contribution.

"Desperate Characters"—Too desperate, in fact, for entertainers' sake. Shirley MacLaine moves about as far from Sweet Charity as possible as the somber, paranoid New Yorker who finds the encroaching urban life too much. The film is unrelievedly depressive, and the acting styles are so unattractive that one finds it difficult to pity, or become involved with, the characters at all. (Today at 6:30 and 9 p.m., Great Hall, Union free flick.)

"The Nightcomers"—What happened before "The Turn of the Screw," according to a screenwriter who has no relationship to Henry James. You or I could have fantasized

as validly, and your affection for this movie will depend largely on your previous experience with the James novella. Marlon Brando's performance is mystifying, and full of that old Brando fascination. It's a pity he's so lazy and will not allow us to see more of his superb work. (Saturday at 6:30 and 9 p.m., Great Hall, Union free flick.)

"The Italian Straw Hat" and "Entr'Acte"—Pauline Kael thinks this French farce is one of the funniest films ever made. Rene Clair directed, and its starting-off point is a young lieutenant's ungallantly allowing a horse to eat his lady's straw hat. Chivalry demands retribution, and we're off. The short, "Entr'Acte" is a surrealist fantasy, also by Clair, involving a funeral on a roller coaster and other Danish shenanigans. (Sunday at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Greenlaw Auditorium, \$1.50, Chapel Hill Film Friends.)

"The Day of the Jackal"—Well-crafted spy thriller about a plot to murder de Gaulle and the man who almost accomplishes it. He is played by Edward Fox, a steely determined assassin, and his attempt to get to the Arc de Triomphe for his personal triumph on Liberation Day is excitingly paced and directed by veteran Fred Zinnemann. Several French character actors spice things up, and the production is first-rate. (Sunday at 6:30 and 9 p.m., Great Hall, Super Sunday, subscription only, Union films.)

"The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob"—French slap-stick got excellent early reviews. (Varsity at 1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05 & 9 p.m., \$2.25.)

"Carnal Knowledge"—(Carolina at 2, 3:45, 5:30, 7:15 and 9 p.m., \$2.25.)

"Where the Red Fern Grows"—A dog film, Bow Wow. (Plaza 1 at 3:05, 7:05 and 9:05 p.m., \$2.25.)

"Harry and Tonto"—(Plaza 2 at 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 and 9:30 p.m., \$2.25.)

"Gone With the Wind"—Tara may never be same, the movie has been sold to T.V. A classic. (Plaza 3 at 3 and 8 p.m., \$2.25.)

Weekend Late Shows—"The Day of the Jackal" (Carolina at 11:30 p.m. today and Saturday, \$2.) "The Magic Garden of Stanley Sweetheart" (Varsity at 11:15 p.m. today and Saturday, \$1.75.) "Godspell" (Carolina at 11:30 p.m. Sunday, \$2.)

Night Life

Town Hall—Steve Ball Band plays at 9 p.m. this weekend. \$1.

Watergate Memorial Tavern—Decatur Jones at 9 p.m. today and The Success System at 9 p.m. Saturday.

Theatre

The Lab Theatre presents Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* at 4 and 8 p.m. today in 06 Graham

Memorial. Free tickets may be picked up in the Lab Office on the south mezzanine of Graham Memorial.

Tickets, \$1.50, are now on sale at the Union desk for the Soviet Georgian Dancers performance at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 through Saturday, Nov. 2 in Reynolds Coliseum on the N.C. State campus in Raleigh.

"Hello Dolly," presented by the Raleigh Little Theatre at 8 p.m. daily through Sunday. Call 832-6384 for ticket information.

The Duke Players present a studio theatre production of "The New York Times," "Chamber Music" and "Slave Ship" at 8:15 p.m. today through Sunday in Branson Theatre at Duke University. Call 684-3181 for tickets.

The Hoop 'N' Horn Club presents "Company" at 8:15 p.m. today through Sunday in Fred Theatre at Duke University. For tickets, \$2, call 684-3181.

Durham Theatre Guild presents "Dames at Sea" at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday. Shows also Thursday, Oct. 31 through Saturday, Nov. 2. Tickets, \$2.50. Call 682-5519 for reservations.

Music

The Black Heat concert will be at 9 p.m. today in Memorial Hall. Tickets, \$2, are on sale at the Union desk.

Tickets, \$2, are on sale at the Union desk for the Taj Mahal concert at 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2 in Carmichael Auditorium.

Tickets, \$2, are on sale at the Union desk for the "Six Stars of Ballet" performance at 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 in Memorial Hall.

Tickets, \$4, are now on sale at the Union desk for the Loggins and Messina concert at 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 in Carmichael Auditorium. Tickets will be \$5 the night of the concert.

Earth, Wind and Fire will appear in concert at 8 p.m. Friday in the Greensboro Coliseum. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$6 at the concert. Call the Coliseum box office for tickets at 294-2870.

A guitar recital by David Barison will be at 4 p.m. Sunday in Hill Hall. Free to the public.

The songs of Robert Burns, read and sung, by tenor John Hanks, reader James T. Cleland and pianist Ruth Friedberg at 4 p.m. Sunday in the rehearsal hall of the Mary Duke Biddle Music Building at Duke University. Free to the public.

Forum

Holly Stevens, daughter of the poet Wallace Stevens, will speak on the topic, "Wallace Stevens: A Sense of the Poet" at 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28 in 101 Greenlaw.

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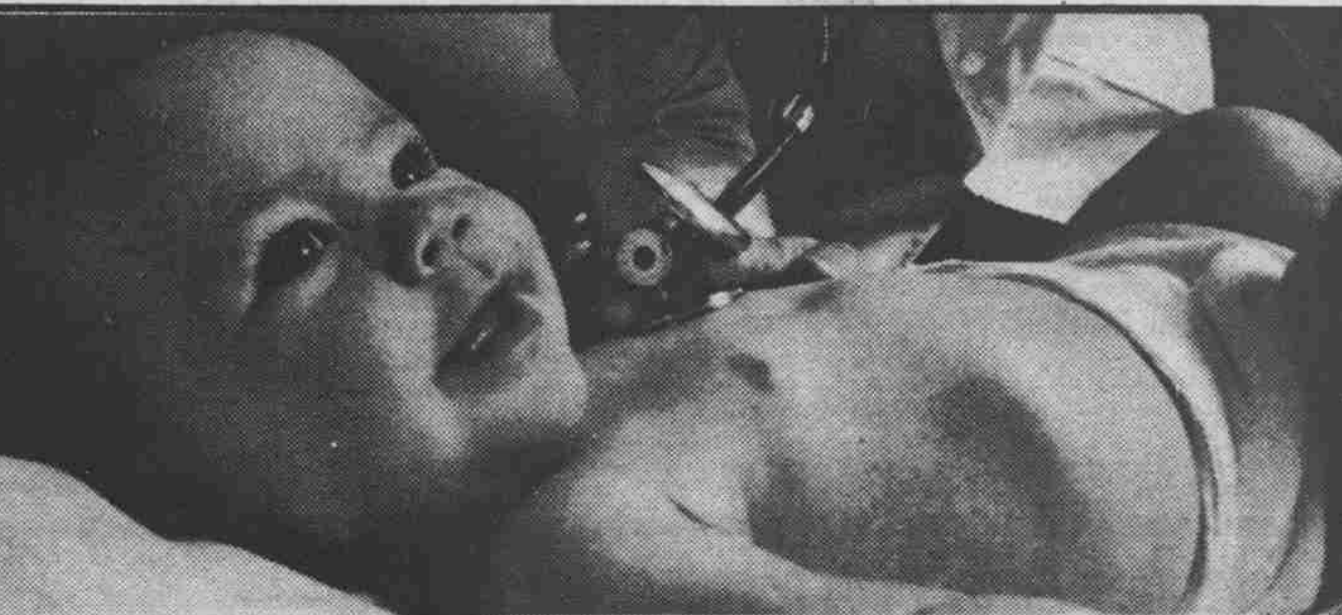
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