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'Holiday' limits cast's potential

The Playmakers Repertory Company's opening of Philip Barry's Holiday was like most vacations, raising expectations which were both unfulfilled and surpassed. And as with the best pleasure cruises, the two tendencies resolved themselves into sweet but insubstantial dreams.

The problem with this worthy production is the itinerary itself, the play, which per se is no problem at all. It s a smooth and harmless vehicle, a well-

love for the cute Julia (Donna Davis). Such an intrusion of a man of no estate and rather idealistic attitudes toward the sacred dollar (remember, this is pre-Depression 1928) is hardly encouraged by father Edward (Richard Ussery), Big Business incarnate.

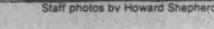
The ensuing struggle between love for Julia (and hence for her father's lifestyle of securities) and love of freedom and happiness, with the complication of Julia's free spirit sister Linda (Maggie Tucker) as an added temptation, is what the balance of the play is about. No problem: a clean comedy of dilemma. neither an incisive comedy of manners nor a satire on the lifestyle of high society New York during the decade that roared nor a nostalgic romantic drama of the triangle. Curiously, it is the same sense of Barry's dramatic restraint that denies

the near-brilliance of the PRC cast a chance to really pull off a honeymoon. Only the characters who violate that class veneer really endure specifically, Linda and her close friends the hilarious Potter couple, Nick and Susan (Mark Phialas and Mina Penland).

Linda is an immediately endearing figure, all red lips and teeth and gestures as opposed to her petulant sister's staccato trot to Daddy with arms stiff and palms parallel to the floor. Linda is also, more importantly, dissatisfied with the opulent living and "reverence for riches" that everyone else embraces and that she wants to escape. Maggie Tucker realizes this demanding central role with compassionate believability, perfectly mixing the conflicting elements of the sardonic and the romantic. She magnificently manages the sudden, melancholic close of Act II and makes us believe that such a rebel could tearfully waltz with a teddy bear. Likewise, the two brief moments of Phialas and Penland on stage are a joy of pure comic relief. They not only have excruciatingly funny facial expressions, especially Penland and her double chin, but also the only deliberate one-liners in the show, like, "Merry Christmas from Dan to Beersheba." Although their sardonic spiels and Johnny's ingenious nature are the inevitable direction for Linda, it is convincingly overlooked by Donna Davis as the naive Julia and Richard Ussery as the business-blind and bland father Edward. Also turning in a fine performance overshadowed by the believability of his character was Dallas Greer as stubborn Baltimore-born Johnny Case, whose presence motivated and generally advanced the action.

The polish and competence of the balance of the cast is also to be applauded, especially Brian Keeler as fatalistic brother Ned, whose alcoholic resignation is quietly upsetting amidst the glitter.

The set design made a nominal stab at the glitter but came up uneven. Even in the presence of Julie Zobel's period costumes and realistic props such as potted plants and French telephones, furniture in the Seton House was simulated by an assemblage of grey platforms. And considering the intimate distances in the Graham Memorial theatre-in-the-round, such unforgivable anachronisms as a current Wall Street Journal and the recent New York Times Book Review with friend John Simon on the cover should be eliminated. Joseph Coleman's direction, besides showing an allowable and expected penchant for the '20s tableau, was expedient and only rarely "cute." The audience seemed as pleased by his choice of intermission music as anything, a smattering of Cole Porter and Betty Boop. It is only his choice of the play that I would finally question, and it is not because there is anything wrong with either the play or the production. They are merely mismatched. Philip Barry's play is fluent and admirable in its sadly anachronistic insistence on integrity, but it lacks a pervading vivacity. This passion seems to be what the young and talented PRC has to offer, judging from the moments of high drama and electric dialogue which sometimes shone in this production. If artistic director Tom Haas can ever align his company's potential with a worthy and powerful vehicle, then local audiences are in for the holiday of a lifetime.



Holiday

At TOWN HALL this weekend: South Wing autora drok a These guys are the best! SATURDAY: Arrogance Fresh from Vanguard recording studios. p.m/.-1 a.m. Hill's unique music emporiu

Duke University Union's Freewater Film Society presents, FRIDAY NIGHT **"KING OF HEARTS"** directed by Philipte de Broca with Alan Bates & Genevieve Bujold

An ageless film about Scotman Bates in World War I, who stumbles into a small French own which has been deserted by everyone but the inhabitants of an insane asylum.

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BIO-SCI auditorium, Duke University campus.

967-8284

1976 Tax Lister's Schedules for Orange County

CHAPEL HILL TOWNSHIP: L. R. Cheek, Lister

The listing will take place at the Carrboro Town Hall each Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; and Saturdays, 9:00 am - 12:00, beginning January 2, 1976 and continuing throughout the month of January.

BINGHAM TOWNSHIP:

Evelyn Teer, Lister (Mrs. Thomas Y. Teer)

January	9	Wade Store 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
January	10	Hardin Johnson's9:00 am - 4:00 pm
January	13	Home
January	16	Orange Grove9:00 am - 5:00 pm
January	17	Orange Grove9:00 am - 4:00 pm
January	20	Home
January	23	Allen Service Station 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
January	24	Allen Service Station 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
January	27	Home
January	30	Talbert's Service St9:00 am - 5:00 pm
January	31	Talbert's Service St 9:00 am - 4:00 pm



LATE LIST PENALTY

10% of total tax due will be added to all lists filed after January 31. All persons owning ten or more acres of land must file a Farm Census Report. Persons 65 years of age or over, and permanently disabled persons who wish to apply for the \$5000 Homestead Exemption must complete application for found on tax abstract and form AV-9 available at the tax office or from the tax lister. This application must be re-executed each year to regualify.

> **Orange County Tax Supervisor** W. T. (Bill) Laws