

Play Review

Molieres' Satirical Wit Draws Applause

Reviewed By
PROFESSOR ANDREW KAFKA
Collegian Play Critic

The first of three productions to be held at the Highacres Campus was Moliere's satirical witty play "The Imaginary Invalid" that was presented on four successive evenings, October 26-29 in the Highacres Commons'.

The large talented cast of 22 players obviously pleased the capacity audience as evidenced by the frequent hearty laughter and loud lingering applause.

The comedy was brilliantly directed by Jay Breckenridge of the English Department faculty at Highacres. He was assisted by Randine Matthews. The producer was Jim White, assisted by Keller Taylor.

Paul Irwin was superb in the leading role as Argan, the wealthy bourgeois, who seeks more attention and giving vent to his self-indulgence affects different severe illnesses—hence, the title "The Imaginary Invalid." Irwin was dynamic in this demanding role, alternating between energetic health and an affected pose as a languishing invalid. Bravo, Paul Irwin!

Argan is under the domination of his physician Dr. Purgan, played with professional authority by Steve Flynn.

Argan's daughter Angelique, charmingly performed by Sybil McGuire, is secretly in love with handsome and dashing Cleante. Cleante was acted with romantic fervor by Randy Hoffman. Hoffman was splendid, especially his exposition and romantic role within in the play sequence, a "little impromptu opera" in Act II, scene 5.

Sybil M. McGuire was ideally cast in the part of Angelique. Her rendition in Act II, scene 6 of "Why Girls Marry" was bright and delightful.

However, in order to save money, Argan insists that Angelique marry a doctor. He favors Thomas Diafoirus who has just graduated as a doctor. This silly looking suitor, Thomas, was convincingly portrayed by Butch Lamont. His studied oratorical speeches were very funny. His father Dr. Diafoirus was played with the necessary pompousness by Brad McNab.

Rita Bell played the role of Argan's second wife Beline with effective hypocrisy. While pretending to be a faithful devoted wife, she actually hoped that Argan would be killed off by the doctor's so-called cures in order that she may inherit her husband's money.

As Toinette, the saucy and teasing housemaid, Renee DiSabella was remarkable. She played her part, including her later disguise as an aged

traveling physician, with unusually brilliant comical virtuosity. Her energy and sparkle contributed much to Moliere's lines when she was on stage. It was Toinette who convinced Argan to pretend that he is dead. Thus, he finally realizes his wife's duplicity, and his daughter's genuine love.

As foil to Argan is his sensible and perceptive brother Beralde, played with credibility by Ron Reinmiller. He tries to persuade Argan of his doctors' charlatanism and of the selfish intrigue of his mercenary wife. It is Beralde who suggest that his brother Argan become a physician and, consequently, gain better insight into the medical profession and then be able to diagnose his own physical condition and to recognize the superstitions of the "ancients" as distinguished from the never developments in medical science. Argan agrees to become a physician himself.

This leads to one of the funniest scenes in the play. An elaborate macaronic—Latin (sprinkled with French, a little Italian, and English) ceremony was performed by a group of carnival masqueraders. Carl Frankel played the Presiding Officer, attended by make-believe apothecaries, doctors, et al., played by Wade Bullard, Sandy Randis, Greg Rodgers, Karen Weber, and Theresa Wielgorz. The center of this mock-ceremony is Argan. He is questioned repeatedly concerning principles of medicine in order to lead him to believe that he is really being accepted as a physician.

In smaller roles, Michele Baymor, as Louison, Argan's younger lovely daughter; Randy McKinstry as Monsieur DeBonnefoe, the conniving rotary; and Ron Sandrock as Monsieur Fluorant, the apothecary, play useful roles in the unfolding of the action.

For additional variety in the play, Kitty Dobash, Marcy Scanlan, Curt Wilkinson, and Wade Bullard were the dancing gypsies, who offered a charming gypsy dance scene.

The transformation of the upper level of the Highacres Commons into an effective and comfortable little theatre with its "apron" stage was accomplished by the stage crew: Keith Bower, Mike Hutchinson, Dave Reed, Agnes Urbasik, and Curt Wilkinson.

Dave Orbin was in charge of lighting,

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Audio Insight

'Punk Rock' Causes Uproar

By DOC
Collegian Staff Writer

Britain's premiere punk rock band, "The Sex Pistols," are here with their first album. Punk rock in England is more than just music. It is a form of expression to show youth's dissatisfaction with the way their lives are fun. Born in the economically depressed areas of Britain, punk rock surveys anger, hopelessness, and the want for anything better. This album is filled with anger. Anyone could see that just by looking at the song titles: "Anarch in the U. K.," "Pretty Vacant," "Problems," (not Donnie and Marie material).

Now for the music itself. High on energy, high on distortion, low on melody, and one wonders if the band really has any idea of how their instruments should be played. The album consists of twelve songs, all fast, reocking, energized, but droningly repetitive. I hope someone teaches the guitarist, Steve Jones, a new chord for their next album. The lead singer, Johnny Rotten, often sounds like he is trying to do a bad imitation of Jan Hunter (singer for the late Mott the Hoopls). Don't expect harmonies, much less singing, from the band. Don't look for imaginative instrumentation or any original chord progressions. But most of all, don't expect anyone who is "supposed" to know music to like it. It just wouldn't be cool to say you actually like something so non-musical. I like it. It's about time someone gives rock

a good kick in the ass. When they start spitting out four-letter words, they aren't just there for coloration; they mean it. As I said before, Johnny Rotten is anything but a singer. But he doesn't need to sing. He growls out how he feels with more anger, sarcasm, and dissatisfaction than anyone I've ever heard. At the end of "Pretty Vacant" when he says "We're pretty vacant, but we don't care," you just know he doesn't. He couldn't care less if everyone in the world just dropped over dead and didn't even hear the album.

They mercilessly put down the Queen in "God Save the Queen." That song caused such an uproar in England the British Broadcasting banned it and numerous record companies either refused their contracts or dropped the ones they already had with them. The song made it to Top Ten anyway. In "New York" they put down, homosexuality. In "Anarchy in the U. K." they ridicule government. "No Feelings" just plain puts down everyone. You may not like these guys but have to give them credit. It's not every band that goes around and openly insults the people that are going to buy their records. Even if punk rock doesn't catch on, I still have to thank the Sex Pistols for hating everything. It shows there still are a few rebels around who want a change.

P.S. Hang in there, Keith.

Movie Review

By CRAIG OSWALD
Collegian Staff Writer

"Oh God:" Possibly one of the most captivating films of the year. Excellent casting was a major reason for success in this satirical film. George Burns is at his best in the portrayal of God in tennis shoes and a golf cap. John "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" Denver, is also excellent as the supermarket clerk who witnesses the appearance of God before him. The plot is easy to follow but the finale could have been better. Another reason for the success of "Oh God" is that it deals with a unique situation and a novel idea about a very controversial subject. I recommend this movie very highly.

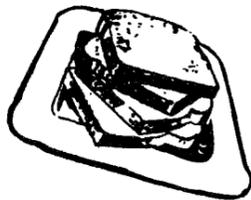
Other Current Features

Damnation Alley: This is another world ending catastrophic film. This type of film idea has been overdone and is beginning to become boring. The only tangeable acting is by George Pappard and even his acting is disappointing. The plot deals with a nuclear catastrophe in which the United States is reduced to a barren waste land with all types of honors.

The survivors try to make their way to Albany, New York from California by traveling along a strip of land that is safe to drive on. Their "tank" is something right out of "Star Wars" and the plot is "old hat." The only part I enjoyed was the attack of the armor plated "cock-roaches." This is hardly worth the three dollars per person admission price. If you have something else to do, don't go to see "Damnation Alley."

Piece of the Action: This is my personal favorite of the year. This film, almost unknown, is one of the most entertaining. The film plot revolves around Sidney Pottier (superb) and Bill Cosby (sensational) as two high-class con men. The movie resembles the two previous ventures entitles "uptown Saturday Night" and "Let's Do It Again", but has the plot, casting, acting, and direction to make it one of the funniest and enjoyable films you ever will see. The story centers around an

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