

Critic Considers 'Macbeth' Too Much for Players

By MARTIN LENNIG
Guest Critic

The Penn State Players failed to exercise "The Curse" last Friday and Saturday evenings when they presented Macbeth, to the twice filled Schwab Auditorium. The presentation of a Shakespearean tragedy is a monumental undertaking, and it has been said of Macbeth "... it is an unwieldy and ill proportioned drama that refuses to make peace with the modern theatre". With this in mind we must realize that perhaps it is too much for an amateur group to handle. It certainly was too much for

The Players. Trimming it only slightly here and there, and blending a few of the scenes together; Director Frank Neusbaum's Macbeth was presented in three acts and totaled twenty scenes. The staging itself was nicely managed, although at times one felt there was too much of it in view and wondered which end to watch. The sets looked simple, a sign of craftsmanship. The lighting was well done, and the three scenes with the witches deserves special mention for exceptionally dramatic handling. The actor's business and the stage balancing attained its desired end by being unnoticed throughout the performance.

Some thirty students passed on and off the stage during the evening, from the principles Lady Macbeth and Macbeth, Verna Sevast and Richard Frontman, down to the Porter, Henry Glass. In Shakespearean productions the wherewithal for players to overact, and turn out a stage performance is nonpareil. With few exceptions each member of the cast, at some time, took full advantage of this opportunity.

It is usually conceded that The Thane of Cawdor and his wife were quite in love with one another, that it was her passionate ambition for Macbeth that inspired here with those celverso-ana and his mutual feeling that made him follow out their plans. This feeling was conspicuously absent in last week's interpretation. Not only did the Macbeths' initial scene together look like a marionette show, but judging from the continual giggling, clipped, shrewish quality in Verna Sevast's voice, one wonders why Macbeth didn't tell her off and take up with the gentlewoman. The reference is to Betsy Heagy; as Nellie, with a tambourine, or a gentlewoman to Lady Macbeth, one is decidedly aware of a ravishing feminine presence on the stage. With an asset of this nature, perhaps interpretive ability is unimportant.

Production Is "Occasional"
"Occasional" would be a more suitable word than "spotty" if one were to sum up this weekend's production. Verna Sevast went through the show stone-faced. Her interpretation was that of inherent, cold, evilness, through which no inkling of her motives, passions or ambitions could come through. Miss Sevast has been in a number of Player's shows and her stage technique and natural stage poise prevented her overall effect from being poor, but it certainly was one of her lesser achievements.

Had Dick Frontman appeared only in scenes of heated battle, we would have chalked up another outstanding performance for him. The great majority of the

action took place in a more subdued environment however. Frontman showed only two sides to the audience: normal conversation, and fervor. Most of the evening he jumped from one of these to the other omitting the gamut between.

King Duncan, around whose early murder the bloody plot unfolds, was played by Joseph Vispi, who chanted the beautiful lines of Shakespeare very prettily. The aural esthetics were appreciated, but the feeling of the part abandoned. Portman Paget portrayed Banquo, another hapless victim of Macbeth's purge. It was too bad that death's untimely hand had him carried off so early in the evening, for as far as it went the rendition was good.

Herbert Rossman was Macduff. His shaky beginning added to the pleasant surprise which came in the scene in which he learns of the murder of his wife and family. Combining the efforts of William Reutti as Malcolm, and Martin Baum who did a fine job as Ross, these three turned in what was perhaps the best complete scene of the evening.

Another well-played part was that of Henry Glass, as the porter. His soliloquy, after the murder, was first rate.

Witches Score Hit

To the witches Lois Hartswick, Henreitta Campitell, and Betty Graeber a fearful nod of approval. Perhaps Dorothy Briant, "Consultant on movement in witch scenes" deserves part of the glory. The witches were certainly not the least bit disappointing. The green clawing motions of their hands, and their cracked eerie voices created an effect surpassing even the murder scene with its blood covered daggers.

Perhaps The Players bit off a little more than they could chew. Perhaps there were other, less tangible, reasons. Knowing what Players have done in the past, and having seen the performances of the past weekend, we can only shake our head. No, it wasn't up to par this time, but we are certainly looking forward to their next show.

Placement Security Agent To Interview

A representative of the Army Security Agency, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., will visit the campus Monday to interview seventh and eighth semester students in electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and physics.

Students in these curricula seeking positions should arrange for interviews immediately in 204 Old Main, according to George N. P. Leetch, director of the College Placement Service.

Leetch also announced that J. E. Smith and George Kittridge of the Armstrong Cork Company will hold interviews on Friday. Positions open include sales trainees, research laboratory workers, industrial engineers, mechanical engineers, advertising copywriters, and international sales trainees.

Students in commerce and finance, economics, arts and letters, mechanical engineering, industrial engineering, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, journalism, forestry, and English, are asked to arrange for these interviews. Those in other curricula are eligible but not preferred.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY
Collegian Senior and Junior Boards meeting, 8 Carnegie Hall, 4:30 p.m.

Glee Club meeting, Band room, Sabbath Eve services, Hillel Carnegie Hall, 6:45 p.m.

Foundation, 7:30 p.m.

Student reception, Evangelical Church, 7:30 p.m.

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, Schwab Auditorium, 8 p.m.

IWA Open House, everyone welcome, 401 Old Main, 9 to 12 p.m.

TOMORROW
Saturday Night Club, White 9 p.m. to 12 p.m.

"Bunny Hop", Recreation Hall, p.m. 9: to 12 p.m.

SUNDAY
Chapel, Dr. Leston Pope, "How to Interpret The Time," Schwab Auditorium, 11 a.m.

Newman Club Initiation, Woodman's Hall, S. Allen St., 2 p.m.

Record Concert, Hillel Foundation, 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY
Orchestra Rehearsal, 117 Carnegie Hall, 7 p.m.

F.F.A. Meeting, F.F.A. room Ag Ed Building, 7 p.m.

Chess club meeting, 305 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.

Sigma Epsilon Sigma Initiation, 106 Mineral Industries, 7:30 p.m.

Badminton Club Meeting, White Hall, 7:45 p.m.

Cwens Meeting WSGA room, White Hall, 8:30 p.m.

Omicron Nu meeting, 224 Home Economics at 3:20 p. m.

PSCA Installs New Cabinet

Cabinet members of the Penn State Christian Association were formally installed at a recent meeting. Officers for this semester are Betty Funkhouser, president; Barbara Struck, recording secretary; and Nancy Sherriff, corresponding secretary.

Commission heads are Phoebe Forrest and Larry Driskill, commission I; Terry Haskins and Kenneth Harshbarger, commission II; Patricia Woods and Stanley Coville, commission III; Gene Gilmore and Jack Syer, commission IV; Rea Hanzlik and Richard Rathmell, commission V; and Lee Yeagley and Gail Gearheart, commission VI.

Committee chairmen for the semester are Rebecca Griffin, personnel; Marjorie Reich and Ted Williams, publicity; and Mary Lou Waygood, cabin.

Ben Carnevale, retiring North Carolina basketball coach, has become so adept on the golf course that the only person in Chapel Hill who can beat him is Mrs. Estelle Lawson Page.

Chapel

Yale Professor To Discuss Time

"How to Interpret the Time" will be the subject discussed by Dr. Liston Pope, associate professor of social ethics at Yale University, at Chapel exercises in Schwab auditorium, 11 a. m. Sunday.

Author of "Millhands and Preachers" written in 1942, and several pamphlets and journal articles, Mr. Pope is also the editor of the "Social Action Magazine."

A native of North Carolina, he received his A. B. and B. D. at Duke University. In 1940 he received his Ph. D at Yale University, where he stepped into his present position of associate professor of social ethics in the Gilbert L. Stark Foundation of the Divinity School.

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