

allons au cinema

T. Williams Turns Clean In Comedy Of Newlyweds

By VINCE YOUNG
Collegian Reviewer

Hallelujah! Tennessee Williams wrote a work about normal people, whose problems could easily be solved by a quick Psych. 17 course.

It's called "Period of Adjustment," which just means the period between the honeymoon and the marriage to which all newlywed couples must adjust.

THE TWO COUPLES on view (Jim Hutton, Jane Fonda—Tony Franciosa, Lois Nettleton) have some trouble, though. Hutton's afraid of Fonda, who thinks she's some kind of a Verna Vampire. And the Franciosa-Nettleton duo have been married for 6 years, but are still trying to adjust to each other, and to Nettleton's wads of money.

I don't know what possessed old Sex-Seller Williams to turn halfway decent, but he did a good job of it anyway.

So, those of you who would expect to see Miss Fonda get angry at her husband and eat him (a la "Suddenly, Last Summer") are bound to disappointment. Or, if you'd like to see Franciosa break Hutton's nose (a la "Sweet Bird of Youth"), you're in for quite the shock.

For Mr. Williams is now a good boy. He wrote a good play that has been transformed into a better movie, with loads of semi-racery situations and semi-blue gag lines.

THIS MAY NOT be the Williams' "great first comedy" but it's one of the funnier pictures seen this year, and might even make Mr. Oscar Academy Award laugh next April.

By the way, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer chose State College to be one of the first cities in Pennsylvania to see its film. In fact, it won't be shown in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh until next week.

'Rivals' Humor Called Classic

The same things that made for comedy in Richard Sheridan's time make for comedy today, according to Frank Neusbaum, professor of theatre arts and director of "The Rivals."

The University Theatre production, which opens at 8 tonight in Schwab, is one of the classic comedies in the English language. Neusbaum said. The play will run through Saturday.

THE CHARACTERS act a bit differently than modern ones, but the comedy is based on the same principles we would use today, such as the country bumpkin come to the big city or the society dowager who tries to lord it over society," he said.

"The Rivals" is a classic comedy, he added, classic not in a dull sense but in that the story is so universal in time, nationalities and to men generally that the play is ageless.

"The stage language is of the 18th century," Neusbaum said, "but the characters are understandable in today's terms. The play has the same entertainment values we expect from good modern comedy."

Some adaptation to modern taste has been made in terms of act length and lighting, he explained. "The Rivals" wouldn't be funny if it were completely modernized, however, because the style is peculiar to its time.

The famous Mrs. Malaprop with her strange ways with language, the love situation play, if you can call it that, and the young people trying to deceive the older, all made for comedy to which a modern audience is accustomed, he said.



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