

# Singing fares better than acting in production of 'South Pacific'

By KAREN FRANKOLA  
Collegian Staff Writer

While it didn't exactly make for some enchanted evening, last night's Penn State Thespians' production of "South Pacific" was generally enjoyable and entertaining.

The cast of the well-worn Rogers and Hammerstein musical was fairly proficient overall, making up for individual weaknesses in singing and acting with a good deal of enthusiasm.

The performances of the large cast varied greatly. Most of the singing was in the good to excellent range, with a few weak spots.

## play review

The acting was of somewhat lower quality overall. A few good performances were interspersed among a majority of just adequate ones.

Helen Lee Eckard did some strong singing in her lead role of Nellie Forbush. She managed to achieve a wide range of moods in skipping from love songs to comical numbers. Eckard's co-lead, Harry Zimble, was rather colorless in

comparison. His singing was somewhat jerky and weak at first, but it became much richer in the second half. somewhat jerky and weak at first, but it became much richer in the second half.

Several other performers improved a great deal as the show wore on. Thomas A. Glantz, who was quite strong musically as Lt. Cable, lost much of his dramatic woodiness later on.

Outstanding roles include P.J. Bayless, who created a striking Bloody Mary. Through gestures and voice she made Mary into more than just a caricature.

Peter T. Dragon, as Luther Billis, probably gave the most unaffected performance of the cast.

The most enjoyable parts of the show were the big song and dance numbers. The sailor group pooled some very good talent for the energetic "Bloody Mary" and "There Is Nothing Like A Dame."

Bobbi Burger choreographed these routines excellently, generating a great deal of color and excitement.

The set could have used a little of that vitality. Again, "South Pacific" was staged with cardboard palm trees.

If you like light-hearted musicals with a little philosophy about ethnocentrism and freedom thrown in, "South Pacific" is worth your time.

# the daily Collegian arts

## Film about rape opens in town

**"Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore"** — Fast, funny comedy about a newly widowed woman who sets off across the country with her smart-ass 12 year old son. Ellen Burstyn is marvelous. Don't miss this. Cathaum

**"All the President's Men"** — Film about the delights and drudgeries of investigative reporting. Cinema One.

**"The Boys in the Band"** — Film version of Mart Crowley's off-Broadway hit about a group of homosexuals. William Friedkin directed the impressive cast, including Cliff Gorman and Leonard Frey. Stereotyped, but different. State

**"Oriental Blue"** — Pornography travel to the Far East to learn the ancient laws of wisdom and truth. Rated X. Screening Room

**"Taxi Driver"** — Robert De Niro plays a New York taxi driver about to get violent. Movies

**"Hearts of the West"** — One of our favorite little films in a long time. Charming tale of grade B westerns in Hollywood of the 1930's. Jeff Bridges and Blythe Danner. Temple

**"Nashville"** — Robert Altman's novelistic film about the world of country music and Nashville. Starlight

**"I Love You Rosa"** — Israeli film. HUB Assembly Room, Saturday and Sunday.

**"Sodom and Gomorrah"** — Tale of two cities. Rated X. 117 Osmond

**"Woodstock"** — Documentary on the rock festival. It all seems like such a long time ago. Pollock, Friday

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