



'Mousetrap' enjoyable Christie mystery

By DAVID HUGHES for the Collegian

An unsolved murder in London, a large snow-covered guest house not far from the scene of the crime, and five trapped, very suspicious guests — all the elements of a good murder mystery. But these aren't the particulars of just any murder mystery. They belong to the classic story of murder and suspense, "The Mousetrap" by Agatha Christie, which opened Wednesday night at the Boal Barn Playhouse in Boalsburg. Christie's truly classic play needs almost no introduction. The story is simple (for a whodunit). A woman has been strangled in Paddington. At Monkswell Manor, about half a dozen snowbound guests are being interrogated by a very young policeman who arrives unexpectedly on skis.

The policeman tells the visitors and their hosts that the cross-examination is all for their own good since one other person, or perhaps two others, will probably meet the same unpleasant end.

The plot is full of surprises. Just when you start to think you know whodunit the situation abruptly changes and you find out you know as little as, when you started. Maybe less.

Several of the characters are played with quite a bit of skill and provided several interesting and entertaining moments. On the other hand, a few of the actors are somewhat inconsistent in both dialect and character development, which proves a little distracting.

In their roles as the young and very inexperienced inkeepers, the Ralstons, Barb Bisbing and Rick Wolfe show a good deal of talent.

One of the most entertaining characters in the whole play is Mr. Paravicini,

played by the talented Sal Caito.

As a whole the production comes across very well. Even though there are several minor problems with dialect and characterization, I hope they will be worked out as the show continues its run.

"The Mousetrap" plays till July 16 and again on July 19-23 at the Boal Barn Playhouse. Curtain is at 8:30 p.m.

Scruggs concert blends jazz, rock

By STEVE LESTER
Collegian Staff Writer

The Earl Scruggs Revue, featuring the legendary banjo player, his three sons and one friend, showed how jazz-rock influence can be blended with country roots for a rousing performance Saturday night.

A sellout crowd of about 2,500 at Eisenhower auditorium saw how father-sons acts are becoming big business as the generation gap of the 1960s closes.

The Scruggs family, though weak on vocals, showed that they are among the best in the business on their instruments.

Randy Scruggs reeled off some blazing licks on acoustic and electric guitars. He also displayed amazing fitness as a finger-style picker when he soloed on Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now."

The crowd's favorite, however, seemed to be the youngest brother Steve, by far the most versatile member of the group. He took occasional breaks from his keyboard duties to play saxophone and guitar and proved himself a worthy match to his father on banjo.

concert review

Drummer Jody Maphis and bassist Gary Scruggs provided a solid rhythm section. Gary, the oldest brother, handled the lead vocals, which were pretty muddly.

The group played a wide-ranging repertoire. Songs like the Beatles' "Lady Madonna" and Loudon Wainwright's "Swimming Song" were mixed with old favorites from Earl like "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" and the "Beverly Hillbillies" theme.

The rowdy audience was well-primed for the festivities by Bob Doyle and the Buffalo Chipkickers. Doyle is not an exceptional guitarist, but his band members are outstanding performers and instrumentalists who carried most of the show. The East can look forward to seeing a lot of the Buffalo Chipkickers in the future.



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LOST: GRAY CAT with white spot between eyes. About 1 1/2 years old. Call 237-5146

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