

Illusion sparkles in Glass Menagerie

By JUDD A. BLOUCH
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

"The Glass Menagerie," which opened last night at the Pavilion Theatre, is an illusion, a deception and only a figment of playwright Tennessee Williams' imagination.

In this case, however, that is praise of the highest degree for the University Resident Theatre Company's production. For this is Williams' message behind the drama — all life is an illusion and becomes only what we make it.

The play opens with Tom Wingfield (Charles R. Boyd) addressing the audience. Tom, the voice of Williams, says "I

give you truth from the pleasant disguise of illusion."

Tom is a wanderer, a writer and a dreamer. He gives us the illusion of his memories of life with his domineering, doting mother Amanda (Kay Doubleday) and his invalid sister Laura (Vickielee Wohlbach). Tom's remembrances don't seem much like a basis for illusion and imagination, especially when told in the realistic style of Williams.

But, in fact, what "The Glass Menagerie" is saying is that the truth is illusion. You, me and the rest of the common women and men in the world spend our time fooling ourselves and others with

false images. The common truth is illusion. It penetrates our lives, takes over and eventually ruins us.

Amanda Wingfield is the typical victim of a life of illusion. She is an old, and in the case of Doubleday, heavy woman. Yet there are signs of youthful beauty and charm, evidenced in Amanda's Southern gentility which she can turn on and off like hot and cold water. However, Amanda's tales of her days as a Dixie chicken are obviously stretched as Tom well knows. But innocent, shy, socially crippled Laura believes much of what her mother tells her, allowing illusion to become reality.

Everyone is deceitful from Laura to her gentleman caller Jim (William Johnson). Sometimes it is attempted, sometimes it is subconscious.

Director Archie Smith and the cast of "Glass Menagerie" have done a superb job of making the distinction and bringing out the essence of Williams' drama. Boyd plays a perfect Tom, stifled and frustrated, but not quite strong enough to break away from his mother's wing. Doubleday's Amanda is different from Katherine Hepburn's cinema interpretation; Doubleday is, of course, much larger in stature and less demented. She wasn't any less effective. Johnson is the perfect man for the part of Jim — a large, overconfident smile on top of a tall body.

SAB questions Oswald's decision

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Murphy said he and his staff were not well informed about the proposal and went into a staff meeting yesterday with "a lot of 20/20 hindsight" on the proposal.

Although he has been working closely with housing officials on the proposal, Calkins said he was not informed that Oswald had made a final decision about closing University facilities until he read the president's statement at 11 Wednesday morning.

Provost Edward D. Eddy replied: "I don't know what kind of answer you expect from me. You talk about young people being frustrated about one decision. If you talk to some older persons, all their life they have had all kinds of frustrations from decisions that they wished were different."

He said he hopes students will not be reluctant to "get involved about what concerns them and come to the University on all phases of student and University life" because of one incident.

Bob Karp, president of the Organization for Town Independent Students, said that although ARHS had the courtesy to submit its proposal through the proper channels, the University did not return that courtesy when it did not contact ARHS after a decision had been made.

Undergraduate Student Government President Bill Cluck said he was disappointed with the University's decision not to provide some assistance for fans who might want to stay at University Park after the football game.

"Where do we go from here?" he said. "Does the ARHS council feel they can make a proposal and trust the University to address that propo-

Also at the meeting, Eddy told board members the University plans to hold a general education conference during Winter Term 1983 to re-examine basic degree requirements.

Because of the diversity of University students, Eddy said the conference could debate whether the basic degree requirements for a major should be determined by individual University departments or by colleges.

One issue that may be addressed at the conference is whether English writing courses should be extended throughout all four years of a student's college career, he said.

Council votes to be separate student group

By ANNE CONNERS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Even though the Undergraduate Student Government Executive Council last night voted that the council should be a separate student organization, it did not approve USG's new constitution which would officially remove the council from USG.

"We have established officially our intention that we would like to be an autonomous students organization," USG President Bill Cluck said.

The constitution has been approved by the USG Senate and USG's Academic Assembly; however, the president of the assembly has said he will veto the assembly's decision. The constitution still has to be approved by the council and the USG Supreme Court.

But USG Fraternity Senator Jim Krauss said that, according to USG's present constitution, Assembly President Chris Hopwood does not have the power to veto the assembly's vote.

"You cannot veto," Krauss said. "The constitution would

override anything you would use as standing rules for a group."

Hopwood said that he would ask the Supreme Court for a clarification about the extent of his power, and that he decided to veto so assembly members would have more time to understand the document.

"There was an absolute lack of understanding on the part of the assembly about what was in the new constitution," he said.

After the meeting was over, Hopwood said, "almost two-thirds asked me what we had voted on."

In a related matter, the council voted in favor of the Executive Council's new constitution which does not include seats from the Council of Branch Campus Student Governments or the Graduate Student Association.

Several council members had argued that one of the reasons the council should be taken out of USG is to give Commonwealth campus students the opportunity to vote on the council.

But Cluck said GSA had requested not to be a voting

member of the council until it could present the issue to its council. Cluck also said COBCSG would have to become a student organization and change its constitution before it could become a voting member.


But he added, "This group can become as large or as small as it wishes. It can amend (the constitution) later."

In another matter, Association of Residence Hall Students President Chris Calkins said the administration was not fully weighing student input before making major decisions. Calkins cited President John W. Oswald's decision to close all University buildings after the Fall Term final examination period without consulting student leaders as one example.

"I think the channels are pretty well-defined, I just think they're pretty damn ineffective — suddenly my channels have dried up — I'm not getting anything out of them," Calkins said.

To clearly define student goals, Cluck proposed setting up a task force which would prepare a "Student Plan for the '80s."

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