

'Master Harold. . . and the Boys':

Script, acting give powerful account of human nature

By JEFF BLISS
Collegian Staff Writer

The stage of Eisenhower Auditorium on Tuesday night was transformed into a South African tea room, in which a drama universal in appeal and intent was performed. "Master Harold. . . and the Boys," another fine installment in the Artists Series, portrayed the tragedy in man's experiences with wit, humor and humanity.

The story, which takes place in apartheid South Africa, involves two black waiters, Sam and Willie, who work for the parents of a white prep-school boy, Master Harold.

Repeating his Tony award-winning role of Sam, Zakes Mokae controlled the mood of the production as well as the audience. Delivering his lines with a musical resonance and dominating the action with his assertive movements, Mokae simultaneously portrayed the fragile graciousness and dogged will of his character. Sam refuses to call the pompous school boy "Master Harold," instead referring to him by the boy's affectionate childhood nickname, Hally.

This is Sam's paramount quality: he chooses to ignore the superficial and narrow-minded relationships society has forced upon him and instead chooses to focus on the human aspects of a situation. Mokae projects this humanity beautifully.

He was ably helped by his two co-stars, who represented the polarity of their deteriorating society. Evan Handler's Hally was convincingly bratty and pretentious and yet made three-dimensional with his

latent love for the humane Sam. Portraying the black sector of society that has been kept in ignorance and servitude by apartheid, Ray Aranha's Willie became endeared to the audience as he accepted Sam's dream of understanding between humans.

Yet, it was playwright Athol Fugard's dialogue that propelled the evening to its climax. Countering paths with humor and infusing his words with double meanings and poetic imagery, Fugard transcends the local problem of apartheid to include all human relationships. Ballroom dancing is compared to the artist's vision of a choreographed harmony between men. The usually pessimistic Hally, caught up in this infectious idealism blurt, "the U.N. is just a dancing school for politicians!"

Gradually though, the South African writer's hope turns into despair, as he pictures the sovereign whites as crippled, alcoholic and childish. Hally, after being informed that his drunken, comic book-reading father is returning home, becomes disillusioned and scoffs at Sam and Willie's optimism. Teaching people to dance is futile, Hally feels, because "the cripples are out there tripping up everybody and trying to get into the act."

Such images made the story universal in scope. Fugard isn't just reflecting on the sorry state of affairs in South Africa; he is referring to the way men hurt each other and how through idealism the situation can be changed. In fact, The St. George's Park Tea Room could be located anywhere in the world: Vietnam, Nicaragua or even, as the case was Tuesday night, Happy Valley.



A powerful and memorable performance was given by the three-man cast of "Master Harold and the Boys." Especially outstanding was Zakes Mokae, who performed with an emotional appeal that certainly touched many hearts. Mokae proved himself to be more than worthy of the Tony Award he won for the same role.

Noh-Kyogen theater combines Japanese drama and comedy

By HEIDI BEELER
Collegian Staff Writer

To the Western world, the Orient possesses the dual image of gracious mystique and unswerving determination. It is both cherry blossoms and Samurai warriors. Rice paper and hari-kari knives. Subservient women and kamakaze pilots.

Both these sides are incorporated in the Noh-Kyogen National Theatres of Japan, which will appear as a part of this year's Artists Series at 8 p.m. tomorrow night in Schwab Auditorium. The Noh drama is an ancient stylized form of theater in which the dance-like movements can range from the delicate fanning of a white-skinned lady to the wild, howling exorcism of a fanged demon.

Symbolism is the foundation of any Noh drama. The Japanese view this theater much as we do our ballet — not as a realistic portrayal of life, but as a way of interpreting the emotion of a situation. The action is primarily danced, and even the language — chanted by the actors to the music of drums, flute and stringed instruments — is an ancient poetical form that only the most learned scholars can understand.

So the actors use symbolic gestures, colors and sets to help make the plot understandable: a fan can represent a shield when open or a knife when closed; a person on stage dressed in black does not exist in the play; and if a character has no lines, an empty kimono thrown over a chair back symbolizes the presence of the character.

During the intermission of the Noh theater, the Kyogen is performed. This Japanese-style situation comedy parodies the serious



The Noh-Kyogen National Theatres of Japan combine humor and drama and symbolically describe human emotions in their performances. This talented troupe will be performing tomorrow night in Schwab Auditorium.

drama that it breaks into, and uses the language of the common people.

Created in the 14th century to reenact the grand deeds of gods, warriors and demons, the Noh drama is strictly a family art, the technique being passed down from father to son. The actors wear brightly colored kimono styled like their ancestors', and many of

the masks that hide their faces are generations old.

With about only six Noh troupes in Japan, this form of theater is highly honored in its native country and is a rare treat not to be missed by Western audiences.

Tickets are on sale today in Eisenhower Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MJ breaks record with record and makes 25 million sales

By RON YEANY
Collegian Staff Writer

"Thriller," Michael Jackson's blockbuster album of pop/dance/rock, has surpassed the \$5 million sales mark, making it the biggest selling album of all time. The announcement was made yesterday by Epic Records, Jackson's label for the "Thriller" album and also his last album, "Off The Wall."

"Thriller" has now passed the soundtrack to the movie "Saturday Night Fever," which previously held the record for the top sales figure. Jackson's album, released 14 months ago, recently climbed back to the No. 1 spot on Billboard's Top L.F.s. The album has notched a total of 29 weeks at No. 1.

The announcement of Jackson's record-breaking sales comes at the same time that the single "Thriller" debuted at No. 20 in 1971. Jackson has also received a record twelve Grammy nominations and "Thriller" is also Jackson's unprecedented seventh

Top Ten single from the album, following "The Girl Is Mine" (duet with Paul McCartney), "Billie Jean," "Beat It," "Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'," "P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing)" and "Human Nature." "The Rock Report" from The Source network also reported that Epic Records has discussed releasing an eighth single from the album. The album has a total of nine songs.

Previously, Jackson's "Off The Wall" album and Fleetwood Mac's "Rumours" held the record of four Top Ten songs from a single album. That figure does not include soundtracks.

In recent weeks, "Thriller" and Michael Jackson have been the focus of much news. When "Thriller" was released last week, it debuted on Billboard's Hot 100 at No. 20, the highest debut since John Lennon's "Imagine" debuted at No. 20 in 1971. Jackson has also received a record twelve Grammy nominations and recently won a record eight American Music Awards.

UCC keeps audience rolling with Landesberg's comedy

By DIANE DAPIERO
Collegian Staff Writer

A scene from the memorable comedy "Barney Miller." It all started with an audition for the "Tonight Show." In his Wild West routine, Landesberg acted out all the accents he had heard in his father's grocery store near Yankee Stadium.

Although he didn't make the audition, Landesberg was not discouraged.

In 1971 Landesberg was back on the set of the "Tonight Show." Johnny Carson had fallen head-over-heels with his (as Carson put it) "slightly wacko" sense of humor.

He performed his hilarious crazed German psychiatrist skit on the "Tonight Show" and the "Bob-Darin Amusement Company."

Landesberg found a new and more lasting home at the "20th precinct." He became a permanent member of the "Barney Miller" clan in their 1976 season, and remained with them until the show's TV finale in 1982. Landesberg enjoyed playing Det. Dietrich, whose jokes kind of coolly and slowly crept up on you, saying it was almost like playing himself.

Tickets for Landesberg's performance are \$6, \$7 and \$8 and can be purchased at the door.

night in Eisenhower Auditorium. Landesberg, originally from the Bronx, has been making people laugh for about 14 years. It all started with an audition for the "Tonight Show."

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'... Fred MacMurray':

Student-written play has good humor, but wimpy hero

By HEIDI BEELER
Collegian Staff Writer

At the opening performance of Bret Marks' new Five O'Clock production "Whatever Happened to Fred MacMurray?," there were loads of top-notch laughs, some great acting, a solid set — and, unfortunately, a hero who was so unheroic that you'd just love to trip him in a dark alley.

When the play starts, it's Bobby Carlisle's (Christopher Howe) first day as the chief library administrator, and everything has gone wrong for him: he can't decide who to hire as the library's utility man, his car breaks down and the newspaper boy charges him \$20 for a rainy, muddy ride home on the pink's moped.

Meanwhile, his wife, Ellen (Sue Michalovich), has met his old high school "buddy" Mickey Roberts (Vince Melocchi) in the grocery store and invited him over for tofu casserole. Bobby can't stand Mickey. When they were kids, Mickey was the tough, bully type who poked people in the chest, while Bobby tagged along, wearing his Gilligan's sailor hat and defending his peked. Then at their senior prom, Mickey stole Bobby's date. Now over ten years later, Bobby feels he has to make Mickey believe that he's the tougher guy.

This play almost worked as the classic loser-meets-toughie-and-grows-to-win plot. Except that Marks

doesn't make Bobby grow. Bobby's complaining was funny at first, but when he vengefully tried to make Mickey grovel for the utility job, even after learning that Mickey's wife and two kids just left him because he was lousy off, the audience literally stopped laughing at Bobby's lines; there was so much resentment.

It wasn't until Mickey reminded Bobby that he'd saved his life (How could he have possibly forgotten?) that Bobby agreed to let him have the job, and even then he complained that Mickey had "won." The action didn't make Bobby realize his shortcomings or help anyone to change.

Marks' sense of humor and vivid dialogue did shine through in this script, although he would sacrifice believability for a joke. For example, the paperboy's mother (Patricia A. Raum), a sinky lounge singer who wants very much to look respectable, casually says that her son learns enough about the sleazier side of life from her. There was no reason for her to say that to Ellen, a complete stranger. And later the audience was so busy laughing at Bobby humming the "My Three Sons" theme song and tapping his foot that they almost missed the climax when Mickey said that he'd saved Bobby's life. The mood swing was too sudden.

Overall, though, the good acting, direction by Fred Sternfeld and humor made "MacMurray" a lot of fun. The show closes at 5:30 tonight in the Pavilion Theatre.



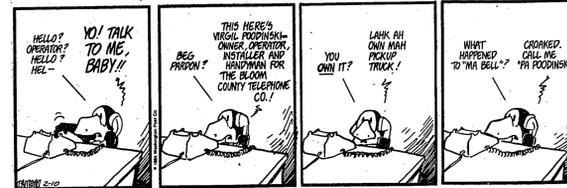
Christopher Howe and Sue Michalovich of the Five O'Clock Theater will continue asking the thought-provoking question "Whatever Happened to Fred MacMurray?" tonight at the Pavilion Theatre.

comics, etc.

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Keep Happy Valley beautiful. Don't litter.

Across

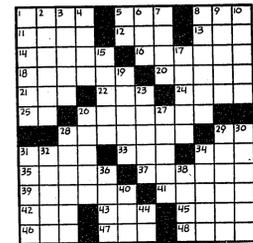
- 1 Cupid
- 5 Dry, as wine
- 6 Stem
- 11 Italian money
- 12 Caleb's oldest son
- 13 AD or BC
- 14 Antelope
- 16 Gentle slope
- 18 Cantabrigian
- 20 Rinders fat
- 21 Troy!
- 22 Lucky number
- 23 Baseless
- 25 Hawaiian honey-eater
- 26 Parish
- 28 Contrary
- 29 Press release
- 31 Staff
- 33 Also
- 34 Textile screw pine
- 35 Legion
- 37 Hot spring
- 39 Confirmed
- 41 Aggrandize
- 42 Nonsense
- 43 Tennis stroke
- 45 Slow
- 46 Ike's war command
- 47 Alternative
- 48 Biblical name

Down

- 1 One of the Furies
- 2 Italian province
- 3 Playing figure
- 4 Ruptured
- 5 Yes, in Madrid
- 6 Unit of energy
- 7 System of worship
- 8 Settle
- 9 Milton's rebel angel
- 10 Billiard shot
- 15 Tennis cup
- 17 Altair
- 19 Plant life
- 21 Erand
- 22 Regarding this point
- 23 Magician's word
- 24 Pogo shoes
- 27 Presbyter
- 28 Regarding this point
- 29 Magician's word
- 30 Automaton
- 32 Eastern
- 34 Eastern
- 36 Wriggly
- 38 Ivy League college
- 40 Hind
- 44 Teaching degree

Crossword

(answers in Monday's classified)



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