

# Unexpected surprise

## Roadhouse's production of Equus is outstanding

by Timothy Jones  
The Collegian

If you have ever read the play or watched the movie version starring Richard Burton, you've probably developed negative feelings toward *Equus*. These feelings will be eliminated by The Roadhouse Theater's production. By the end of the first act, you will be sitting on the edge of your seat.

The production that The Roadhouse Theater puts on is first class. The story of *Equus* is based on a true story in which a young man is placed in the care of a psychiatrist after he blinds six horses.

Fred Schleicher is powerful as he plays the confused 17-year-old Alan Strang, with such believability. His scenes are realistic and convincing and as you're watching, you think you're looking at a real person. He makes the character come alive on stage.

At the end of the first act, Alan shows you what he has

done in the field with the horse Nugget. His final scene at the end of the act is outstanding. He draws you into the story and makes you feel like you're right there viewing the whole scene. Schleicher is an outstanding performer.

The story of *Equus* could not be done without the character of Dr. Dysart (played by Jo Laurie). The Dr. is an integral part of the story because through Alan's sessions, you discover the whole reason behind his behavior. While examining Alan's problems, Dr. Dysart is forced to examine her dreams and her life as well.

Laurie's scenes with Schleicher are tender and sensitive. In the beginning, she plays Dysart as a doctor who is just taking on another patient. But through the sessions she takes the role and turns it into a woman who begins caring for Alan like a mother. She makes the character her own and brings a new dimension to Dr. Dysart.

The cast of *Equus* all shine in

their performances. All the performers make their scenes interesting and enjoyable to watch.

Schleicher and McClelland continue their fine performances during the end of the production when they are naked on stage. They adapt well to this awkward scene.

Music is also added in certain parts. In the end of the first act, the music is so powerful that it gives you a better understanding of what is happening. At other times throughout the play the music is hypnotic, and it draws you into the story. And still in other moments it's soft and gives the theater a relaxing, calm effect.

The production is done brilliantly and is a "must see" play. It will continue to run from September 27th through October 13th at The Roadhouse Theater located on 1505 State Street. For information on tickets and reservations, call the theater box office at 459-8215



Craig Breter/The Collegian

**Characters Shine:** An actor from The Roadhouse Theater's production of *Equus* rides one of the mechanical horses which are the center of Alan's rage-filled scene.



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