

PHOTO BY POLEMIC STAFF

Cast of "How the Other Half Loves" from left: Anna Udell, Ben Gougeon, Becky Black, Mark Breckenridge, Jamie Frazho, and Kirstine Titus getting into character.

Behind the scenes at "How the Other Half Loves"

BY BECKY BLACK
STAFF WRITER

Friday, March 21:

Rehearsals for "How the Other Half Loves" have been underway for quite some time now. It's hard to believe that exactly two months ago today, I was auditioning for the role that I am playing. Two months...sounds like a long time to me; I just got my lines memorized last week. In exactly 13 days, opening night will hit and then the entire cast, myself included, will be able to see how much hard work has paid off. But of course, it always does.

At this stage in the game things are getting pretty critical. Now that lines are set into memory I'm more focused on keeping them there, and letting them out at the right time. No big deal, I only have around 300 of them. The posters have already been printed and with any luck I can get the tickets done this weekend, too. Everything is finally coming together.

One of the most exciting things to happen for the cast this coming week is the addition of our set. Finally we will have real walls to work around, instead of pieces of tape to mark our boundaries. I have a feeling I'm going to have problems at first though. I always manage to step on the tape walls. Furniture will be added too. That will definitely be a welcome sight compared to the folding chairs that are being used now.

The cast has been very dedicated to this show. In the role of the Frank and Fiona Foster, Mark Breckenridge and Kirstine Titus have managed to perfect British accents. They are one of the two couples that

the play is centered around, the other being Bob and Theresa Phillips, played by Ben Gougeon and myself. We have captured the essence of the love/hate relationship of our characters along with mastering some combat scenes. The other couple in the play, William and Mary Detweiler, played by Jamie Frazho and Anna Udell, are the typical boring, shy couple.

Each character in the play has their own quirks and moments. And there never is a dull moment. The play is set in two different apartments at the same time. Overlapping apartments, that is. So the entire cast has to learn the importance of not running into fellow cast members. Timing is essential, the pace is quick, and the play is utterly hilarious...and I hope we will be ready in 13 days.

Tuesday, April 1:

Today is the last time the cast and crew will be able to work without an audience. The rehearsal was quite disastrous. Today was the first day the cast worked with food and water props. This led to the many breakings of character throughout the run. For example, today was the first time that I wet a washcloth that my "husband" sits on in one of the scenes. I forgot to tell him about it. At the moment of discovery for him, I just happened to be yelling at him, face to face. When he sat down, he gave me that "why on earth am I getting a wet butt?" look. From that point in time I lost my composure for the rest of the scene and delivered most of my lines through giggles. Not a good thing.

Otherwise, things have been going along beautifully! Everyone has their lines and

cues down. Costumes and props are now in place. Reservations are pouring in now, too. Things are getting very exciting, and opening night is coming faster than we realize it.

Tomorrow is our first audience. With that will come new situations to deal with. I have faith that we will be able to overcome anything that they can throw at us. But I'm hoping they will just clap instead.

Friday, April 4:

Last night was opening night and despite the small crowd everything was great. Even the crowd was wonderful! It was small, but the people were very responsive and appreciative. We have finally experienced the play after preparing for it over two months.

I felt much better after this performance, too. After rehearsing a play for so long it sort of loses its humor for the actors. I was beginning to ask myself if the audience was going to find the play funny at all, because after all that time I sure wasn't finding it funny anymore. But then I got to thinking about how the first read-through for the cast went. We were all hysterical the first time through. But last night's audience response made me regain my faith in the play and the cast.

It's all going to be over in just three more days. It seems like two months is a lot of work to go through for just four performances. But that's just part of the whole "theater experience," I guess. Sunday, after the show, we will immediately strike (take down) the set, put away all of the props and costumes, and completely clear the stage. Then "How the Other Half Loves" will just be a fond memory in the minds of all of the people involved with it.

Black & White

By Becky Black & Eddie White

Becky

In my opinion "The English Patient" was very beautifully done. The scenery was really beautiful, the music was captivating, and the actors were convincing. But I do think that nine academy awards is a little excessive.

This movie starts out with a clip of a small plane flying over the desert. Aboard the plane is the pilot who is obviously distraught about something, and a dead woman wrapped in a sheet. In the first 30 seconds of the movie, the plane gets shot down.

The next scene is that of a young nurse tending to victims of WWII. She meets all sorts of hardships along her journey through life and is quite unhappy herself.

To make a long (over two and a half hours) story short—the scarred beyond recognition pilot of the shot-down plane comes under the care of the nurse who's decided to stay behind her troops in an old abandoned building until her patient dies. The patient has no recollection of his name or where he came from, so he is dubbed the English patient.

As his body deteriorates, the English patient recalls details of his lost life, and more vividly his lost love, a married woman.

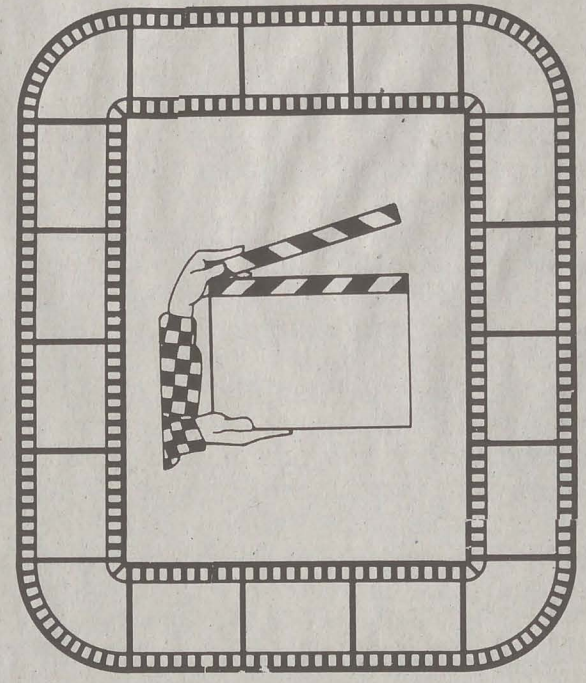
This story is a good love story. Between both the English patient and his lost lover, and also the blooming romance between the nurse and a fellow soldier. I would recommend this movie, but it is definitely not for everyone. But if you are one who enjoys a tragic romance, this movie is right up your alley.

Eddie

That's right movie buffs, we're back, and we're more opinionated than ever! In the spirit of Easter, my cohort and I have decided to resurrect Black and White from the AHS archives.

In the wake of The Academy Awards, we have chosen none other than the mother of all movies, "The English Patient." The highly acclaimed film was the winner of the award for best motion picture, along with countless other Oscars. So we decided

days comfortable ones. They spend these times in an isolated castle where he starts remembering pieces of his life, and reminisces about his tawdry affair with actress Kristin Scott Thomas. Thomas is subsequently married to a successful business man, which causes her to be torn between the man that she loves, and the man that she has sworn to be loyal to. You'll have to shell out



since everyone was making such a big deal out of it, we'd see what all the noise was about for ourselves, and give you our point of view.

The movie starts out in World War II Africa, where a pilot and his lover are the victims of an untimely plane crash. The pilot, Ralph Fiennes, suffers horrid 3rd degree burns over the majority of his body, cooking his insides, and making his death only a matter of time. He also undertakes a bad case of amnesia, which left his life a mystery. He is cared for by a courageous young nurse, who temporarily gives up her life to make his last

the \$4.50 to find out which path she chooses.

The story is intriguing, but a bit long, using unnecessary scenes to fill up all of two hours and thirty-five minutes

worth of time. It has several intensely suspenseful moments, and is filled with passionate drama.

Although the plot is a bit confusing at first, it all makes sense in the end. It is well done and original, but a far cry from the best movie of the year. It did not live up to its billing or to my expectations, and I'm not the only one that thinks so; actor Willem Dafoe gave it an enthusiastic two thumbs down. But don't take our word for it; hit the theaters and see for yourself.

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