



"Fool's Errand"

While Craig McCartney readies a punch for the hooded figure beside him, David Veitch cowers on the floor. For the black figure is Death and he knows it's a fool's errand. That's also the name of one of two plays being presented by Richmond Hill High School, Apr. 13-16. That's Laurie Hutchinson as Death.

Entertainment

Wait Until Dark

Should have waited until ready - critic

By Tom Davey
Wait Until Dark is the latest Curtain club production. Wait Until Ready would have been more appropriate. The kindest thing one can say about the opening night's performance is that it was under-rehearsed.

Here is a play which, at best, relies on a series of improbable events to gradually build up to a dramatic and horrifying climax. The theatre, in fact, is based on the improbable, but plans should never, never be implausible. More than most, this play requires split-second timing of the actors, lighting and sound effects crews, yet repeatedly we had fluffed lines accompanied by stage lights which embarrassingly stayed lit seconds after we had seen actors turn them off.

There were telephones which rang when they shouldn't, and a musical doll which emitted no sound when it should have.

What happened?

As the doll's chimes were a crucial ingredient to a blind woman's realization that the toy was in her apartment, it caused quite a few in the audience to involuntarily whisper: "But how does she know it's there?" How indeed?

This is the sort of audience reaction directors should dread. It is, in effect, a negative applause which indicates a play's mystique — both its bond and catalyst in effective theatre — has become somewhat threadbare.

Perhaps it was just a bad night in a production, which wasn't ready on time, but even the prompter seemed out of synchronization at times.

and possessed of a whisper heard with great clarity in the back row of the house. While this speaks volumes for the prompter's enunciation, it does suggest a little acoustical overkill.

Paradoxically, this production has all the ingredients for a successful show. The set is excellent and the lighting, when properly coordinated is capable of producing the difficult effects so vital to this particular play. But somehow Director Tony Miller has brought forth a show which is considerably less than the sum of all its parts.



Margaret Smith
..... best performance

when the dramatic terror of a helpless woman reached across the stage to grip the audience.

"Death" is theme RH School plays

RICHMOND HILL — Death is the common theme of two one-act plays to be presented by Richmond Hill High School Drama Club at the school, April 13-16.

The two are "Fools' Errand," a modern verse play, based on one of the Canterbury Tales, and "The Rose and Crown," by J.B. Priestly.

Directing the plays, which will mark the club's 21st year of production, will be David Phillips, who was seen in the Curtain Club's opening production of the season, "See How They Run."

Phillips played the American corporal, whose innocent visit to an old friend at an English vicarage, started off the evening's chaos.

Appearing in the first play are; Dom Caruso, David Veitch, Craig McCartney, Debbie Smith, Wendy Travis, Laurie Hutchinson and Martha Buell, who was seen as the young wife last month in the Curtain Club's Festival entry of "All in Good Time."

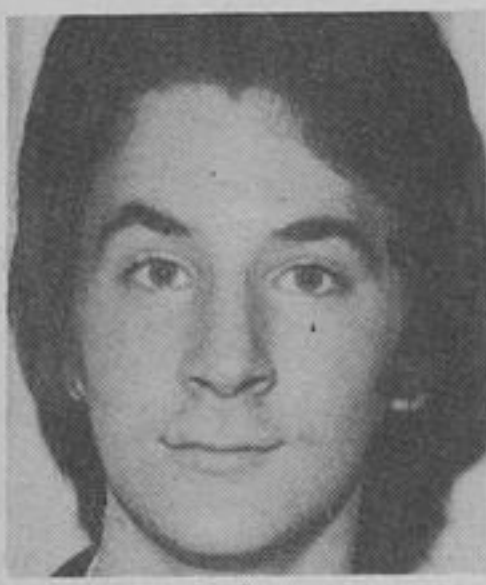
Miss Buell, Miss Hutchinson, Veitch and McCartney, also appear in the second production, "The Rose and Crown."

Others in the cast are; Peter Kite, Nancy Morreau and Robin Heider.

In "Fools' Errand," three inebriates set out to find Death, and see whether or not he is, in fact, "stronger than anyone."

Not only do they find that Death lurks nearby, "not six or seven paces into yonder wood," but also that "Death is more strong than you or I, and if he choose to call, we must follow gaunt Death and fall to dust."

Rich in spirit and language, the tale sets the pace for the second play, which looks at the more modern view of death.



Dom Caruso
..... in first one

Set in an east end London pub, the story revolves around the reactions of six very different people, one of

whom is suddenly faced with certain death. The question, however, is which one is it to be?

In the final poignant moments of the play, a second truth is learned: that only those who have learned to love life are fit to die. Hence, "if life is a rose, then Death is a crown."

Although closely related in theme, the plays provide a rich contrast in mood and style, which together make for rewarding theatre.

—Martha Buell—

Calendar

RICHMOND HILL HIGH SCHOOL — Two One-Act plays: "Fool's Errand" and "The Rose and the Crown"; April 13-16. Tickets from cast and crew, or at door.

York Philharmonic Choir — presents Rossini's "At the Foot of the Cross"; April 3, St. Joseph's Morrow Park Convent, Willowdale, at 3 p.m.; Richmond Hill United Church, April 8 at 8 p.m. Admission free.

Pauline Kulha — Canadian landscape artist, York Fine Art Gallery, Snowball Village; Apr. 6-17. (2 1/2 miles west of Aurora on Wellington).

"The Hand that Cradles the Rock" — A young couple reverse roles Fairview Theatre Centre, Don Mills and Sheppard Ave., Mar. 30-Apr. 2. Call 444-7227 or 222-2972.

Peter Pan — Pepi Puppet Theatre; Poor Alex, to May 1. Call 225-9473.

Canadian artist, Guido Molinari — retrospective of his work prepared by National Gallery of Canada; Art Gallery of Ontario, to May 23.

"Shot in the Dark" — a naughty parlor maid is accused of murder; Herongate Barn Theatre, Apr. 12-8-9.

Royal Winnipeg Ballet — O'Keefe Centre; to Apr. 9.

Focal Point: an exhibition of photography by 20 Canadian photographers; Art Gallery of Ontario, to Apr. 3.

Dracula — Toronto Truck Theatre. Call 922-0084.

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