

'Crucible' Called Stimulating; Von Boskirk Plays Hit Role

by Donna Maulding Lehner
Emerald Columnist

The University theater's production of Arthur Miller's gripping drama, "The Crucible," under the skillful direction of Horace Robinson, was a stimulating and exciting piece. From the moment the curtain opened and the red question mark appeared until the curtain closed when the symbol again appeared, the show maintained a level of acute and keen symbolism.

It is regrettable that many in the audience did not see the parallelism which Miller intended in this work. We do not think the fault lay with the director, the actors or the author, but with the influence that McCarthy has on many sincere persons. It seems to be the American nature to laugh off or be taken in completely with a "witch hunt."

Paul Minty's setting added much to the over-all effect, as it conveyed a bare massive quality into these people's surroundings.

We liked immensely the method of entrances and exits used in the show, which added a realistic touch to the production. The stylized movement of the actors also lent itself to this impression.

Van Boskirk's portrayal of Proctor was one of the finest performances we have seen on an amateur stage. In the final scene of the play he brought us to an emotional pitch seldom experienced, with his speeches on the sanctity of a man's name. Some of us laughed for relief and some of us wept, but we all felt the magnitude of the moment.

We did not feel Donna DeVries quite reached the point of intensity the play called for in the court scene. Her facial expressions were so delicate they did not seem to carry far enough into the audience. We liked very much the scene she played in pantomime just before she began the accusations, but she never seemed to reach this pitch again.

Sandra Price did a very nice job with the characterization of Elizabeth Proctor. The dignity of this woman was clearly defined at all times. She typified the sincere Puritan woman.

Mrs. Cheek's performance was an outstanding one. Although her lines were few, she was always doubting, superstitious Ann Putnam. Sally Mollner was at all times the mousy Mary Warren. She commanded our sympathy for the weak person who was caught between the whore, Abigail and the man, John Proctor.

Winston Rust brought tears to our eyes when he pleaded for his condemned wife, Mrs. Corey. Tom Gaines also was touching in his plea for his spouse. We felt both did a very convincing job.

Clarence Suitor as John Hale had the touch of David Slater in him during the first scene. But we are happy to say he overcame this in the following scene and reached his peak in the trial scene.

A very convincing Danforth was presented by John Pearce and typified the intolerance of his kind. Joan Pearce gave us the heathen Tituba in a superb manner. These two actors also were outstanding.

We loved Rebecca Nurse. Mrs. Seybolt gave us all the sympathy her character had for the people of Salem. Parris, as played by Mr. Whited, seemed to be a bit inconsistent. We couldn't make up our minds if he were a character to laugh at or not.

We would like to comment on the minor characters but space will not allow. But we would like to add that they all did an excellent job in creating the powerful atmosphere of this production.

* CAMPUS BRIEFS *

● Tryouts for dancers for summer productions of the University theater will be held at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday in Gerlinger annex. Both men and women dancers will be needed in the semi-professional productions, according to Gloria Lee, summer theater dance director.

● Hollis Ransom, senior in political science, has been elected president of Pi Sigma Alpha, national political science honorary, for the coming year. Martha Spatz, junior in political science, was elected secretary - treasurer.

● Richard Lyons has been elected president of Asklepiads, premed honorary, for the next year. Vice-president for the group will be Walter Meihoff, and Scott Page is secretary-treasurer. Howard Emil Susman has been chosen "famed organic chemist."

● Students planning to attend the YMCA-YWCA conference at Seabeck, Wn., should turn in registration fees to the YWCA office before Saturday. An extra dollar is charged for late registrations, according to Sally Stadelman, YW publicity chairman.

● National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People will meet at 7:30 Wednesday in the Student Union, according to Larry Schwartz, chairman of the steering committee. Election of officers will be held.

● Students interested in being Art Editor of the 1954 Pigger's Guide please contact Anne Ritchey, editor, at 5-9345 before Wednesday.

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In case there be any men among the Freshmen Class who desireth not to enter the sacred portals of a Greek Organization upon their return to school this fall and who possesseth a wee bit of spirit, notice is hereby proclaimed that there will be vacancies within the ivy covered walls of Alpha Hall, "The Home of the Alphaholics," for the coming year.

KIP WHARTON
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