subservient: subservient to their masters, their parents, society at large, and, of course, men.

Dominating the play is Bernarda Alba, impressively played in the current New Rose Theatre production by Merril Lyn Taylor. Bernarda is the imperious and severe matriarch of the leading landowing family in the village. Her husband has just died and she and her household are going to stay inside in mourning for eight years, because that is what was done in her father's house and in her grandfather's. This is a great frustration to her five unmarried daughters, aged 20 to 39, who long to be married and out of their mother's control.

It is the daughters' obsession with young men, in particular with the handsomest man in town, Pepe el Romano, and Bernarda's refusal to see the growing tension that brings about the final tragedy.

This is a fine production, with a very good and quite large all-female cast. It is a rather grim show. The cast brings out their individual frustrations very well, which creates the overall tension of life in the villages that Lorca aimed to show.

The life-long tension of having to do what is "right and good" has proven too much for Maria Josefa (Bernarda's mother) who has gone crazy. Jacqueline K. Willis is excellent as Maria Josefa, her ravings are always consistent and fascinating. Bernarda has her under lock and key so she will not embarrass her, but still she manages to get loose and wreak havoc in the house.

The play is full of symbolism. There are many references to dirt, the servants work hard to keep the house clean, but it is never enough for Bernarda, and outsiders keep coming in and tracking up the floor. The dingy, bare settings by John W. Garth accentuate the starkness and denial of the women's lives and the decay of the family and village fortunes.

The crazy grandmother is a symbol of what will happen to feeling people in this society. The constant references to what the nighbors will hear and be saying about the family provides constant pressure to conform and keep emotions under tight rein.

Michael Griggs, the director, has done a fine job, although I thought the relationships between the daughters could have been clearer. They were very well differentiated as characters, but I was never quite sure what they felt about each other. Also, Martirio's physical impairment was unclear and tended to disappear occasionally. But these are minor things in an otherwise impressive piece of work.

The House of Bernarda Alba plays at New Rose Theatre in the Masonic Temple downtown, Wednesday through Saturday, at 8:00 and Sunday at 2:00 until November 22.

That which we call a rose

by E. Jane Westlake

Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare. Directed by Linda K. Czajkowska. New Rose Theatre.

Remember back to that party you crashed; and although you were greeted with a certain amount of enmity by the hosts, you saw someone for the first time who made you drop your potato chips into the *Perrier* with lime held by the person standing next to you. Perhaps this someone noticed you, too, and then maybe you spent every moment you could together, in secret, because for some reason people around you thought this involvement was disgraceful.

Well, good of Will Shakespeare has done it again. True, he was not a well-educated sort of fellow. His plays were not logically planned out but kind of haphazardly thrown together as rehearsals progressed. The neo-classical French thought of him as a barbarian because his work didn't follow the unities of time, place and action; his plays jump about in setting and are littered with sub-plots.

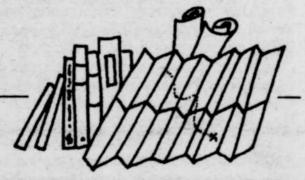
What Shakespeare was good at, however, was reaching the audience. He not only reached the Elizabethan audiences, but he continues to reach audiences today. The scene described in the first paragraph is right from *Romeo and Juliet* which is now being given a vivid and moving performance by the New Rose Theatre whose particular niche is performance of the classics.

Before seeing Romeo and Juliet, my primary concern was that I would not be able to relate to it at all. My own personal connection with the drama beame clear as images of my very first relationship were conjured up. During the performance I couldn't shake the memories of how much I was disliked by my first lover's family. Although I doubt that the Mitchell's nephew would have slain my cousin in the streets of Dayton, Ohio, the parallel between that situation and Romeo and Juliet was clear to me.

Anne had to sneak away to spend time with me, call me from phone booths at odd hours and meet me at times when her parents thought she was at school or band practice. I imagine that most of us have had similar experiences. Will Shakespeare knew this, too, and that's what makes this play such a hit. That's what makes everybody so teary-eyed when Juliet makes that proclamation that she loves someone, in defiance of what her society dictates. She loves someone: "What's in a name?" she asks in reference to the Montague that she's suposed to hate with all her heart, "That which we call a rose, by any other name, still smelleth sweet."



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