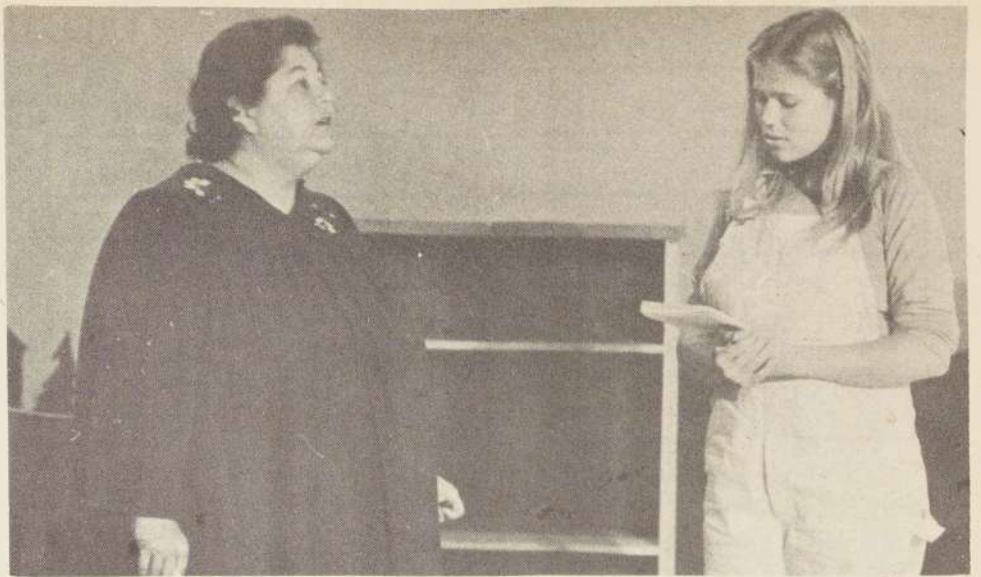


arts

Small cast builds big show



Harriet Mason, (left) and Lisa Kaser rehearse for production of "Veronica's Room" to be presented Nov. 30 - Dec. 3.

Photo by Debbie Stauffer

many typical plays. This play, however, is not typical.

The play is "Veronica's Room," by Ira Levin, and it will be performed by the college theatre group Nov. 30 through Dec. 2 at 8 p.m., and Sunday,

at 2:30 p.m.

The cast is small, only four players, but the suspense is enough for four thousand. If the rehearsals are any indication of how the play will "feel" when it is performed to a full house, then this is a play not to be missed.

Rehearsals begin in a flurry of activity. One person is arranging one part of the set amidst the movement of actors and actresses "miming" their lines, and others are primping up the set.

"Everything must be as perfect as if it were opening night," seems to be the motto behind such preparation. Every little detail is looked over and if something is missing, just pretend.

Jack Shields, College theatre director also directing the play, talks over light cues with the lights girl. He discusses

one of the actress's costumes and then signals for the act to begin.

The lights are dimmed, actress poised, and action. It takes all of 30 minutes to get through the act, but a bystander feels like he has been there forever. The action and suspense in this act is so tight that the viewer can't help but be frozen in time and taken through the actions and dialogue of those performing.

All through the act, Shields takes notes on a tape recorder to be played back to the actors after the rehearsal. Things like missing cues, voice tones and actions are carefully dissected and criticized in hopes of achieving the flawless play.

Near the end of the act is where all the "twists" appear. This production is full of twists to play with the mind of the viewer. Just when the audien-

ce thinks they have the plot made out, Levin inserts a "twist" in the play to send them spinning with suspense.

The closing lines belong to an actress. She plays a disturbed character regressing to her childhood. Her portrayal of this is so stark and heart reaching that when the act is over nothing is heard except the gasps and whispers of a mesmerized cast and audience members.

"My God!" said the light girl. "That was terrific."

The cast steps off the dimly lit stage to rest and recuperate from the mind boggling performance. Getting up and walking out of the theatre, the audience has a "I'm glad I wasn't that girl" feeling. They walk away thinking about the lines that were said and the thoughts that were performed by a small cast, on a small stage, with very big talents.

Young weaker on 'Comes a Time'

By Mike Koller

Of The Print

"Comes a Time" is Neil Young's first studio album in over two years. Young began his musical career with a group called Buffalo Springfield. After Buffalo Springfield broke up in the mid-sixties, Young teamed up with David Crosby, Stephen Stills and Graham Nash to form one of America's finest groups ever, CSNY.

Young's new album doesn't live up to any of his work with CSNY or, for that matter, any of his early solo albums like "Everybody Knows This is Nowhere" or "Zuma," but the album does contain well written tunes with nice melodies. As a singer-song-writer, Young's talents can only be matched by Jackson Browne and Bob Dylan.

"Comes a Time" stands out as the strongest cut on the album. The song features acoustic guitar and sensitive vocals by Young. Young's voice appears strong throughout the album which reassures anyone

who watched the recent film, "The Last Waltz" where Young made a brief appearance on stage and attempted to sing a CSNY classic, "Helpless."

"Lotta Love" ends side one on a promising note. This tune has Young backed by the group Crazy Horse which has played on other Young solo albums in the early 1970's. Despite most of Crazy Horse's original members having left they still sound tight and fluid on this album.

"Human Highway," "Already One" and "Motorcycle Mama" are other strong cuts. Nicolette Larson, a talented female vocalist, sings harmony with Young on these songs. Her voice is a nice contrast to Young's.

By most artist's standards "Comes a Time" would be considered a masterpiece, but because Young took two years to make this album, there could have been just a little more effort involved in order for this album to have reached its full potential.

December in like a melody

The month of December brings in Christmas and cheer. To help bring out the cheer, the college music department is headlining two concerts the first week of the month.

The annual Fall Concert will be held Sunday, Dec. 3, in the CC Mall. Performing will be the concert band and Chamber Choir.

The band will play the overture to "The Marriage of Figaro" by Mozart and "The Little Fugue in G Minor" by J.S. Bach, among others.

The choir will sing folk songs including a Russian classic titled "The Lonely Birch Tree" and traditionalis, "Weep O Mine Eyes" and "Let Us Here No Longer Tarry."

On Wednesday, Dec. 6, the monthly Chamber Music Concert will feature Elizabethan ballads by "Rainwynde," led by Tim Swain. The concert is set for the CC Mall at 7:30 p.m.

Both concerts are free and open to the public. For more information contact the college music department at 656-2631, ext. 293.

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