



'SIR ISAAC NEWTON' (Sean Carlson) tidies up for his guests (Rodger Price, Angie Patterson).

Staff Photos by Duane Hiersche



FRAULEIN DOKTOR VON ZAHND (Patricia Latham) comforts 'Albert Einstein' (Victor Toman).

Play review

'Physicists' unusual for College theater

By Peggy Conrad

The *Physicists* opened its six performance run Friday, May 22 and when the final curtain rang down I was, for the most part, favorably impressed.

The action takes place in a private sanitarium and centers on the lives of three inmates, "Mobius" (Neil Hass), "Einstein" (Victor Toman), and "Newton" (Sean Carlson). As the action unfolds, however, we discover that everyone is not who he/she appears to be.

Everything, from accepting life in the sanitarium to murder are done to protect one's identity. These identity twists help the play move along at a favorable pace. But there are some tedious dialogue scenes; more the fault of the playwright than the actors.

The best action occurs when the three physicists are on stage together. Toman as "Einstein" is brilliant. If he continues to pursue his craft, Mr. Toman will greatly enrich the theater realm. "Newton" is also a gay delight because of the comedic talent of Carlson. The third side of the tipped triangle is "Mobius" portrayed by Hass with determined alacrity and true insight to character study.

Less impressive were Patricia Latham as "Frauline Doktor" who seemed uninspired and slightly off-track and "Police Inspector Voss" (Roger Price) who had a tendency to push his character. Both of these impressions, however, could be written off as opening night jitters.

The entire ensemble of supporting players, as in most productions, breeze in and out and refresh the action. They are responsible for staving off scenes on the edge of staleness more than once. Special mention goes to Ed De Grauw (Sievers) and ten year old John Mills (Jorg-Lukas) who, in their stage debuts, are commendable.

I was especially taken with the special effects. In several instances I had to remind myself I was watching live theater and not a movie where special effects come easier. My compliments to all who assisted in their design and function in any way.

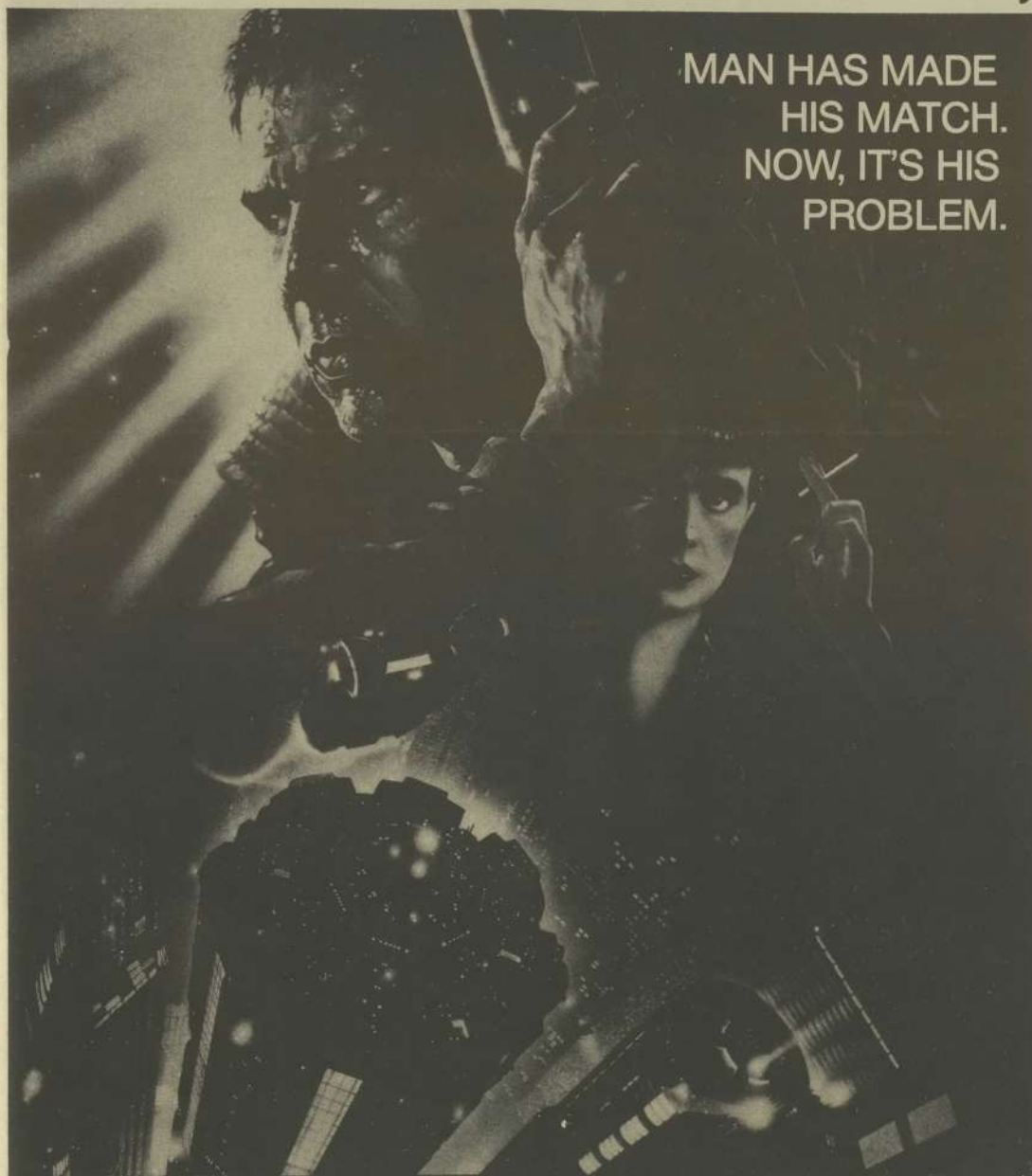
The costumes were bizarre, yet innovative. They made me uncomfortable at first because they were anything but traditional. Thus they fit very well into the science-fiction-fantasy aura that surrounds this production.

Once again, David-Smith-English and his crew have put together a set that is better constructed and more ascetic than some houses I have been in. Take notice, Hollywood, this man has talent.

It is very difficult to say anymore about this show without giving away any of its surprises. However, the perfect ending to the show comes approximately ten minutes before it is actually over, with the clinking of the three physicist's wine glasses.

On the whole, the time and money are well spent. Jack Shields is to be applauded for choosing to do something a little out of the ordinary for college theater. History was rarely this much fun or this depressing.

The *Physicists* continues its run June 3, 4, and 5 with curtain at 8 p.m. Ticket prices are \$3 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1 for CCC students.



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