Drama at MIT...

Jewish tale, love story at Dramashop

By Eric Goldner

The MIT Dramashop presented two one-act plays. The Beigecoat Overcoat by Wolf Mannewich and Still Life by Neil Coward, last weekend.

Jewish Tale

The Beigecoat Overcoat is a very Halprin a Jewish tale about an old tailor whose friend comes back from the dead because he needs a new overcoat. The well-achieved purpose of the play is to portray a condition, that of the poverty and bleak lives of Jewish immigrants some years ago in England. It is all very human and believable, from the range about bagels and soup to the description of an affterlife that sounds very much like a resort hotel in the Catskills.

The two main parts of Morry, the tailor and his friend Findek, were played by Henry Levine '69 and Andrew Lowitt '68. Dick Neil, Fast Nick, played Ranting, Fender's employer, and Martin Donovan '69 was another employee of Ranting's. Peter Holtzman '67 directed the play. The acting was very fine in each case. All four of the actors put on Yiddish accents that were quite natural and virtually perfect (and this reviewer should know). The play was thoroughly enjoyable.

Love Story

The second play, Still Life, is a fairly interesting story of a man and woman, both married, who meet in a cafe, and soon fall in love. All the circumstances are against them, and the very sad story leads inevitably to its unwelving conclusion, the parting of the lovers forever. The play has its lighter moments, provided by the description of an afterlife that sounds very much like a resort hotel in the Catskills.

The result was not bad in itself, but the two lovers come out as completely different types, and one asks, What does she see in him?

Good cast

The restaurant owner and station watchman were played by Halman Johnson and Brian Ring. Both were excellent and very funny. Maureen Bannan played the owner's helper and Isabelle Loven was terrific in the small part. It was all very human and believable, from the description of an affterlife that sounds very much like a resort hotel in the Catskills.

The evening must be rated a success, as usual. One hopes it was the weather that kept the Little Theatre from being completely filled either Friday or Saturday. Dramashop's presentations are always worth seeing, and at such a perfect price there is probably no greater bargain in Boston.