Guerrilla theatre and the Slaughter's war with disturbing 'L'Amant Militaire'

"L'Amant Militaire," which is sponsored by the Department of Humanities and the Lecture Series Committee, will be performed by the controversial San Francisco Mime Troupe in Kegue Auditorium Friday evening, Nov. 10, at 8:30 pm. Tickets will be distributed free to the MIT community starting Monday, Nov. 6, at 8 am in the Lobby of Building 10. MIT ID is required.

R. G. Davis, the Troupe's founder and director, speaks of the work of his company as "guerrilla theatre." "You're doing something because you think it's right and you believe yourself ultimately. We want to deal with topics never acceptable in America. I'm willing to expose myself to the same thing we expose the audience to. 'L'Amant Militaire,'" translated from the original by Betty Schwartz and adapted by Joan Holden, deals with the difficulties of the conquerors and the conquered when a large, powerful country invades and occupies a smaller nation in the name of civil war. Heldam said that this "is the best anti-war play to come out of the Vietnam war. 'L'Amant Militaire'" slaughtered several sacred cows--the war, the war machine, and presidential policies--in the Mime Troupe, in the words of one critic, "manipulated to plant a firm foot in everybody's mouth but its own."

Despite the controversial nature of its material, critical acclaim for the Troupe has been high. "The Nation" said, March 5, 1969, that the Mime Troupe is in "the middle of what's really happening in the San Francisco scene." And San Francisco critic and noted columnist Ralph Ginsburg has said that this "has kept the Mime Troupe the most consistently exciting and challenging theatrical group in this or any other city.

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