**Acting fails in Players' uncertain 'Hamlet'**

By Tina Krontiris

The MIT Community Players have made a valiant though unsuccessful attempt at 'Hamlet.' The production lacks coherence and fails to move the audience. Each actor seems to act their part without a conveyed sense of belonging to a whole play. Certain roles, such as that of Ophelia, seem to be unnecessarily and unwittingly ambitious. In spite of the many shortcomings, however, there are good things that make this amateur production of Shakespeare's famous play worth seeing.

Paul Green's production fails to convey the kind of mystery that makes Hamlet one of the best plays ever written.

What is there in Hamlet that moves us emotionally and intellectually? This question must be answered before staging the play. Karen Barton has not acted the role to convince the audience that her character is worthy of a prince's love.

Lee Boston deserves praise for his portrayal of Hamlet. At first he fails to captivate the audience but he improves as the play progresses. He is very good at the more tender, obviously innocent, naive, obedient, sweet and loving, she becomes the instrument of her corrupted father. Unable to cope with the powers of evil, she loses her rational capacity and is finally destroyed.

In this production Ophelia lacks the innocence and naiveté - a lack which is a matter both of poor acting and poor directing. She is casual character whose love the spectator wondering why exactly she is in the play. Karen Barton has not acted the role to convince the audience that her character is worthy of a prince's love.

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Robert Debeau as Claudius and Lynya Pelias Henderson as Gertrude are very poor. Debeau, who also plays the ghost, is ineffective as Claudius and one of the poorest actors in the play. He is too soft and casual for the role he plays; he lacks the superficially impressive royalty and the cunning quality the role demands.

Henderson is also ineffective, if not as poor as her partner. She keeps wringing her hands - her main occupation in Shakespeare's play - but she lacks the facial expression her role demands.

Perhaps the best actor in the play is Dunny Gordon as Polonius. He does a good job as the foolish but cunning flatterer, who is destroyed by his own folly. Because he is very good, however, Gordon tends to dominate the scene - on the whole, an undesirable effect.

Although in general Green has remained faithful to Shakespeare, he has introduced some changes in his production - some good and some bad. The role of Fortinbras, so often overemphasized, has been very effectively limited.

But the gravedigger's scene - one of the most famous in the play - has been almost destroyed by Green's cuts. The dialogue between the two gravediggers before Hamlet and Horatio enter is excised. As a result, the audience is too suddenly introduced to the theme of futility. Much of the context is lost, although it is important to the scene and to the idea of death with which it deals. Shakespeare is saying, in a sense, that death is a light matter and that virtue lies in being ready to look death in the face. An idea reflected in Hamlet's taking up the skull.

Green has also modernized the language, which might have been good had it been consistent. The inconsistency is especially noticeable in pronunciations: some actors speak with an American accent, others with modern British, while still others with a mixture of both and a tint of the archaic.

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**Moving North End to Back Bay**

Feliciano's

259 Newbury St.
262-9636

Reservations accepted for dinner - closed Sunday

By M.R. Davis

Excellent European fare is somewhat elusive in a Fresh-digested salad and not easily accessible to the less-ethnic of us living in the North End, it is made to feel completely at ease. Hence I welcome the area is made to feel completely at ease. Hence I welcome the atmosphere.

Located on the river side of Newbury between Fairfield and Gloucester, Feliciano's is owned and managed by Feliciano Petruzziello and his family. While maintaining a decor and the atmosphere typical of the numerous luncheon-dinner cafes lining upper Newbury, Petruzziello has successfully brought a genuity and excellence to his food. Himself a vegetarian, most of his dishes are seafood and/or pasta combinations, featuring on the menu. Having worked in several of the major Mediterranean luxury hotels (including an opening at the Hotel du Lac in Sirmbruini, Ospundo brings an authenticity into his own as well as the more standard dishes. The Linguine alle Vignole, offered with either red or white clam sauce as a more representative item is tremendous. The clams were numerous and tender, obviously the freshest to be had. The sauce was delicate and, very importantly, was spiced extremely well to enhance the flavor of the clams instead of cover it, as is unfortunately the case with the more Americanized of Feliciano's competitors. For coffee connoisseurs, you will find on Newbury: those French cafes down the street are too far away and I suspect they use those little automatic machines.

The dinner menu offers a complete selection of a la carte items as well as some appetizing antipasto, vegetable, and desert item. For coffee with the expresso of the best you will find on Newbury: those French cafes down the street.

All dishes are prepared from fresh-daily ingredients, and dinner entrees, as well as a complete selection of a la carte items as well as some appetizing antipasto, vegetable, and desert item. For coffee connoisseurs, you will find on Newbury: those French cafes down the street are too far away and I suspect they use those little automatic machines.

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**Jonathan Edwards and Wendy Waldman**

singing at Sargent Gym (next to Sherman Union) B.U.

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