

arts



Gordon Hall

Jean Budney stars as Ruby, a small-town girl on Broadway, in the MIT Musical Theatre Guild's production of *Dames at Sea*.

MTG's *Dames at Sea* parodies old musicals

By Kathy Hardis

Have you ever seen an old 1930's movie musical on the late-late show? An old Dick Powell-Ruby Keeler movie in which the characters break into song at the drop of a hat, spontaneously tap dance their way through intricate dance numbers, and always end up falling in love?

The musical *Dames at Sea* is a parody of that style of movie, humorously poking fun at the subject matter while remaining very funny in its own right.

Dames at Sea, as presented by the MIT Musical Theatre Guild, captures the proper spirit of the show. The actors play their stylized roles with the appropriate gravity and convey humor in what was once taken very seriously.

The show is pure entertainment, filled with jokes, color, sparkle, and most of all, songs and dancing. No one care that the characters are sketchy stereotypes and the plot a mere pretext.

The story contains all of the stock clichés about naive little Ruby who comes to the Broadway "jungle" from her small quiet hometown so that she can dance her way to stardom. She meets all of the familiar characters — the worldly, warm-hearted chorus girl, the bitchy established star who tries to steal Ruby's sailor sweetheart, and the

director who gives Ruby the lead at the last minute with the classic words: "It's a chance in a million — but it might work!"

The cast of six can sing and dance with the best of Broadway hoofers. Jean Budney as Ruby uses all of the Keeleresque mannerisms necessary for the role. Her face is wide-eyed and innocent as she sings in her lovely soprano voice.

Jerry Bisanz plays Dick, the sailor-turned-songwriter, and is as clean cut and as nice as any girl would want; he does a wonderful job with his big solo, "Broadway Baby."

Sheila Rehrig really belts out her numbers in her role as a showgirl with a heart as big as 42nd street, and Barbara Kennedy is convincingly haughty as the "heavy" Mona who brandishes a flaming torch à la Helen Morgan for her "Mr. Man."

Without a doubt the best aspects of the production are Sharon Glazer's excellent choreography and a musical score which is pleasant in itself, yet reminiscent of the old, unforgettable movie scores. At one point in the dialogue, someone aptly refers to the songs as a combination of "DeSilva, Brown, and Henderson."

The dancing contains frenetic tap dance routines and scaled-down dance spectacles. By far the best number was the Busby

Berkeley style "Raining in My Heart" including slickers and twirling umbrellas.

The staging is delightful. The clever costumes by E. Filander have just enough glitter, and the lighting was complete with follow spots and chasers.

The only negative aspect of the production is that the cast contains no MIT students. The actors are certainly talented, but the purposes of any on-campus theatrical organization should be to give an opportunity for students to perform. Hopefully this will inspire all interested students, especially freshmen, to step forward and get involved with the Musical Theatre Guild's fall production and with MIT's other equally active drama groups such as the Dramashop and the Shakespeare Ensemble.

All things considered, *Dames at Sea* is worth seeing; freshmen should make an effort to see the special free presentation on Saturday, September 10 at 3pm. The acting and staging are of high quality, and the show itself can be enjoyed on its own merit, even by those who have never seen the late-late show.

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Room 3-186 ext. 3-2197

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Thurs 8th 12:30-2 pm
Killian Court \$2

COUNTRY FAIR

Thurs 8th 11:30 am — 2 pm
Killian Court **FREE**

MUDDY CHARLES PUB DAY

Fri 9th 11 am — 5 pm **FREE BEER**
Room 50-110 Walker Building

FACULTY CLUB DANCE

Fri 9th 9 pm — 1 am
Faculty Club, 6th flr. Sloan Bldg.
50 Memorial Dr. **FREE**

HARBOR CRUISE

Sun 11th 8:30 pm — 12:30 am
\$3.50

Welcome. We're the Graduate Student Council and this week is Orientation '77.

If you have questions, we'll try to give you the answers at the **Information Center**. You'll find everything from official brochures and maps to free copies of Boston's weekly newspapers along with experienced staff to help you through the administrative jungle, and tell you a lot about the Cambridge area. Do drop by — refreshments are always being served.

If you've had enough answers already, and just want to relax, come to the **Picnic**. Sit on the grass and talk to some new friends, find your departmental representatives by the numbered signs, or just fall asleep under a tree.

If you're feeling a bit more lively, join in the **Country Fair**, an old-country-style carnival running concurrently with the picnic.

On Friday, we're giving away free beer all day at the **Muddy Charles Pub**. It's full of comfortable chairs and friendly people, and it's the only place you can sit down to watch our award-winning videotapes of MIT.

Friday evening is the **Faculty Club Dance**. Great music, great company. Entrance is free and drinks are cheap.

And if the strain has been too much for you, why not take a boat cruise. On Sunday evening we're sponsoring a **Harbor Cruise** jointly with the Black Graduate Student Association. Music, dancing and a full bar; tickets \$3.50.

These are just some of the OR '77 events. Pick up a program schedule at the **Information Center**, or the GSC office, strategically located next to the Muddy Charles Pub, Room 50-110 in Walker Memorial (x3-2195).

The GSC office is open 9-5 weekdays, and we offer help, red-tape-cutting, and a friendly ear all year round.

Have a great year.
The Graduate Student Council

TICKETS FOR THE PICNIC AND BOAT CRUISE ON SALE AT THE INFO CENTER, GSC OFFICE AND AT THE WELCOMING CEREMONIES.

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