MTG’s Brigadoon is a delightful show

By Leigh J. Passman
The MIT Musical Theater Guild’s season opening production of Brigadoon, is a vivacious and heartwarming presentation of musical theater.

Brigadoon, Lerner and Loewe’s award-winning Broadway play, is an escape to a land of simplicity and love, a chance to leave behind a world of pressures and concerns.

Brigadoon is a Scottish highlands town stumbled upon by two New Yorkers, Tommy Albright (Eric Caplen ’80) and Jeff (Dave Wagget ’81). Brigadoon is enchanted. It appears for only one day every hundred years.

As the town prepares for the wedding of Charlie (Jon D. Brothers) and Jean (Gayle Stengel ‘80), Tommy meets and falls in love with Fiona MacLauren (Lynn Sanker) and Meg Brustie (Deidre Alexander) alluringly chases after the aloof Jeff. The plot revolves mainly around these three relationships and cliques in Tommy’s emotional decision to stay in or leave Brigadoon forever.

Brigadoon is filled with music and dance, mostly in the Scottish tradition. The singing, which was excellent, literally made the show. Charlie flawlessly sang an excerpt of “I'll Go Home with Bonnie Jean” and a delightful and soothing “Come to Me, Bend to Me.” Tommy and Fiona’s “The Heather on the Hill” and “Almost Like Being in Love” were both beautiful.

Meg titillated the audience with a vivacious and rowdy “My Mother’s Wedding Day.” The orchestra was conducted by Paul Jensen, complete with bagpipes, was quite good.

The quality of the dancing was mixed. The majority of the group dancing, choreographed by Claude Boyd, was extremely well coordinated, especially the sword dances. Several lighting cues on the opening night were missed. The wedding and precision sword dances. The problems arose on several of the individual dance parts. Some moves were slightly rushed which yielded faults in timing with the score. One exception, however, was Maggie (Grace Napier ‘80) whose beautifully performed Funeral Dance was both graceful and emotional.

Francis Patti’s extensive costume design was extremely good. Costumes were varied, colored, and highly appropriate. Gary Jenning met the challenge of Francis Patti’s extensive costume design.

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Several lighting cues on the opening night were missed. One should not pass up this opportunity to see this beloved musical comedy. A high quality production of Brigadoon may not be back to MIT for one hundred years.

Harry Beaton (Jerry Stringham ’81) dances the intricate Sword Dance at Jean MacLauren’s wedding.

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