Dramashop shines in season opening

By Margie Beale

The MIT Dramashop opened its 1978-79 performance season on October 12 with an enjoyable evening of thoughtfully selected and perceptively interpreted one-act plays, all exploring the relationships of various couples, both heterosexual and homosexual.

The evening begins with a brief curtain- opener, For Ever and Ever, a vignette in which two young lovers exchange affectionate engagement vows and discuss their future together. Although not extremely original, the material is fairly clever, and definitely relevant for a college audience. Michael Guerette and Victoria Chang seem rather awkward and adolescent in their roles at first, until it becomes evident that this youthful awkwardness was precisely the desired effect. The two are inconsistent in keeping up the tempo of the dialogue, and thus their performances are generally charismatic and humorous. The twirling of ubic- quitous spring birds adds an amusing touch in the more formally romantic moments.

Sacred Ground, the second piece, is a far more serious treatment of romance. Set in the 1890's, it is the story of a weak, jealous, uncertain husband who discovers that his beloved wife, Anna, has never loved him, and has caused a suicide of her lover through letters she has written him, purely from a sense of duty to her husband, rejecting his affection. Here, Susan Dowling gives a witty, if somewhat off-performance as Mad- deleine, the servant girl continually bothering Paolo, the jealous spouse, with details of village gossip concerning the death of his wife's lover. Maria, Paolo's brother, is played with a great deal of consis- tency by Ron Lyon, who is to be commended for his sense of timing and his sen- sitivity to the dynamics of a scene. Barbara Masi portrays Anna, the dutiful, yet un- faithful wife, with a remarkable amount of dignity. Here is a finely-drawn characterization which makes her more thoroughly convincing than the other per- formers in this play. Steve Scott delivers a sensitive and humorous, yet somewhat histrionic performance as the heroine and ineffectual Paolo. He is quite amusing in the scenes with Susan Dowling, but loses his rhythm in his dialogues with Ron Lyon. However, his scenes with Barbara Masi are obviously well-rehearsed, both he and she do some excellent acting together.

Still, the final play, Harold Pinter's The Collection is the highlight of the evening. The play, and exploration into the delicate balance of emotions and the exquisite un- certainties that make up human relationships, is consummately well- constructed, and given a beautifully modulated, subtly clever interpretation by careful, sensitive evaluation of dramatic details. "Here is a finely- drawn character which makes her more thoroughly convincing than the other performers in this play. Steve Scott delivers a sensitive and humorous, yet somewhat histrionic performance as the heroine and ineffectual Paolo. He is quite amusing in the scenes with Susan Dowling, but loses his rhythm in his dialogues with Ron Lyon. However, his scenes with Barbara Masi are obviously well-rehearsed, both he and she do some excellent acting together."

The living laser

By Todd Chave

The laser has been an important tool of man since its invention. Lasers can be used to treat cancer, aim guns and missiles, and to detect and analyze pollution. However, lasers, like any other technological innovation, have their drawbacks. For example, the vast amount of energy required to operate a laser can be a disadvantage. In addition, the laser's high energy output can be dangerous to personnel who work with it.

Still, the laser has found many applications in science and engineering. For example, the laser is used in medicine to treat skin conditions, in industry to measure distances, and in communication to transmit data over long distances. Despite these drawbacks, the laser remains an important tool in many fields.

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The living laser

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The laser has been an important tool of man since its invention. Lasers can be used to treat cancer, aim guns and missiles, and as a communication medium in the telephone system. Like every tool, however, the laser needs a night off; and what a night off it is at the Laserium. Laserium is the new, high-powered, psy- chedelic form of entertainment now play- ing at the Hayden Planetarium at the door Museum of Science.

A one watt Krypton gas laser is used in conjunction with electronic and optical devices to make incredible moving patterns of color which pulsate and swirl with the background music. Some of the more notable songs were "Tark" by Emerson, Lake & Palmer, "Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun" by Pink Floyd, "Timecode" and "Selections from Sain's No. 2 in B Minor" by Walter Carlos of

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