Dirty Linen is a good clean production

The British-American Repertory Company's production of Dirty Linen is first-rate. Under the direction of Ed Berman, the cast keeps the pace quick and the action tidy. The plot is simple. Maddie Gotohied (Sarah Venable) is meeting and greeting members of Parliament like "a lawnmower in knickers." Everyone on the House of Commons' Select Committee which has been convened to investigate her doings has had a dalliance with Ms. Gotohied. As the evening unfolds, Maddie loses a lot of her clothes and tries to forget where she met whom and when. Members of the Committee mop their brows with pairs of Maddie's panties.

The Committee members' antics and Maddie's perceptive comments about why journalists write make for an entertaining, if ultimately unsatisfying, evening of theater. Stoppard is clever enough that you aren't bored with his efforts, but Dirty Linen doesn't have the universality that his previous plays did. When applying his wit to a specific situation, Stoppard is confounded.

Dogg's Hamlet, Cahoot's MacBeth, which will grace the stage of the Wilbur for one week, starting November 20, is less conventional than Dirty Linen. Hamlet explored Stoppard's twin fascinations — Wittgenstein and language. The language appears to be English at first, but reveals its mad order as the evening progresses. Professor Dogg and his schoolboy actors put on a transliterated version of Hamlet that preserves all of the play's important aspects. They enliven it in about a third of the time that their original performance takes.

Cahoot's MacBeth, the second play of the evening, is dedicated to Czechoslovakian playwright Pavel Kohout. Kohout wrote and told Stoppard of the spectacle of country's greatest actors performing Shakespeare in the living rooms of Prague. Most of the country's leading actors are banned from the legitimate stages.


Tom Stoppard's Dirty Linen and New Found Land is probably one of Stoppard's least brilliant works. People acquainted with his more sophisticated work will probably find Dirty Linen a trifle compared to Travesties, Jumpers, and Rosencrants and Guildensferrts are Dead.

Movies
The museum of Fine Arts continues its "World of Francois Truffaut" series with The Story of Adele H on Sat., Nov. 2 at 2pm, in the MFA Lecture Hall. Tickets are $2 and are available at the door.

This week's LSC lineup:
Network, Fri., 7 & 10, 26-100.
The Lady Vanishes (Classic), Fri., 7:30, 10-250.
California Suite, Sat., 7 & 9:30, 26-100.

Music
The MIT Chinese Student's Club presents a piano recital by Foo Trung on Fri., Nov. 9 at the New England Life Hall (next to the Boston Public Library) 225 Clarendon St. Tickets are $8 and $6 and are available from all MIT CSC officers. For further info call: Sebastian Man (494-9237, x-7274), Andy Chiang (494-8956, x-9210), or Stanford Koo (494-8904, x-9205).

In the Heat of the Night, Sun., 6:30 & 9, 26-100.
Fiefe of Dollars, The Midnight Movie, Sat., Nov. 10, second floor of the Student Center!

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