

# I Scream Dream

# ARTS

**I Scream Clone**, Tech Show 1981, presented by the MIT Musical Theatre Guild.

Murder and mayhem, horror and hot fudge, evil scientists, private detectives, a master of disguise, missing brothers, clones — sounds like *General Hospital*, doesn't it?

At the risk of disappointing all you hardcore *GH* fans, all of these plot devices are to be found in this year's Tech Show, *I Scream Clone*.

The show, written by Michael Taviss '81, is a remarkable pastiche of seemingly disparate elements fused into the structure of a Spillane-esque detective story (with more than a passing note to Firesign Theatre's *Nick Danger*, *Third Eye*). People have been found dead in the Ice Cream Express, a new dessert emporium. Bruce Blade, private detective, is called in to investigate the case, in direct competition with Lieutenant Arch, who is determined to make matters difficult for Blade. Blade learns that the murders are part of a revenge scheme perpetrated by the evil Dr. Vera Lovely and her dreaded Clone Gang. There are numerous subplots, but everything ties together (doesn't it always?) in the standard musical comedy happy ending.

The show is a true delight. The script is the most coherent of the recent Tech Show efforts, and Taviss displays a talent for the subtle reference as well as the bad pun. There are some structural problems — the HP character is totally extraneous, and songs should not be used to provide neces-

sary plot information — but the script stands as a cohesive unit.

The most pleasant surprise lies in the quality of the acting — a general level of excellence is maintained with no poor performances, and some stellar interpretations are given. Evan Morris '82 is a natural ham, perfect for the role of Blade; Cullen Johnson '81 as Lord Crumpet lends the proper absurd touch to his already preposterous character; but the show-stealer here is Chartreuse, portrayed by Mary Anthanis, a perennial Guild participant. She plays her part perfectly — an overly heavy French accent, expansive gestures, animated expressions — what would have been called overacting in any other role is found to be exactly what is necessary for this one. The actors are also to be commended for their ability to overcome technical difficulties. (When will somebody fix the Kresge sound system?)

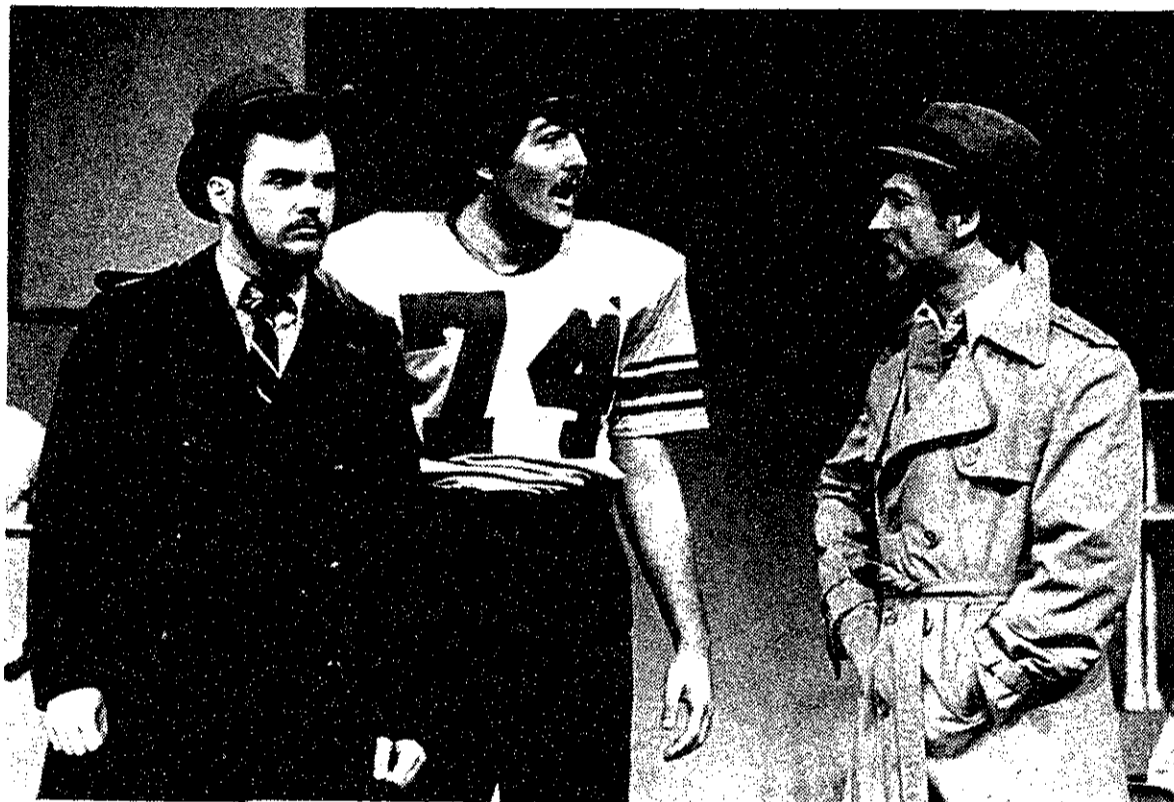
The music suffered from a few ballads that seemed to drag interminably ("Deadly Dilemma" and "Instant Clones"), but there were also some winners ("A Message from Our Sponsors" and "What Will I be Today?"). The orchestra was a bit loud at times, but this problem would have been overcome with a properly working sound system.

As an evening's entertainment, *I Scream Clone* succeeds admirably, providing the audience with a little of the essentials: murder, romance, and — most important of all — ice cream.

David Shaw



(Photo by Dan Bullock, courtesy Technique)



(Photo by Dan Bullock, courtesy Technique)

## ON THE TOWN

### MUSIC

A program of **French music** for soprano, baroque flute, harpsichord, and viola da gamba will be presented on April 9 in the MIT Chapel at noon. Admission is free.

For something completely different, the **Dead Kennedys**, San Francisco's punk darlings, will appear, along with the Lyres and the Dark at the Channel, 25 Necco Street, Boston, near South Station.

### MOVIES

**Spoofs!**, a program lampooning the works of Woody Allen, Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, and others opens Thursday, April 9 and plays through April 22 at the Off the Wall Cinema, 15 Pearl Street, Cambridge. Show times are 6 pm, 7:55 pm, and 9:50 pm.

Screenings of experimental films from Holland and Poland, plus discussion, will take place at the BFVF, 1126 Boylston Street, on April 9 at 8 pm.

### THEATRE

The Boston Shakespeare Company's **Richard III** opens on April 8 and runs in repertory through early June. Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets are \$4 to \$8.50 depending on the performance. We are reminded that this is the towering tragedy of the "struggle to possess England's Queen and Crown."

Or stay home and catch the **Tech Show '81**, if you haven't already. This year it's *I Scream Clone* — "a flavorful tale of rivalry and revenge... of horror and hot fudge." Performances are April 10 and 11 at 8 pm in Kresge auditorium.

THE MIT MUSICAL THEATRE GUILD proudly presents

## TECH SHOW '81: I SCREAM CLONE



An original musical tale of homicide and hot fudge

APRIL 3, 4, 10 & 11 AT 8PM  
KRESGE AUDITORIUM  
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Available in Lobby 10 or at  
253-6294

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