Lime jello will get you everywhere!


What would you say if you were sitting calmly in the fifth row watching a theatre production when suddenly, in the middle of a song, one of the performers comes by? And he says, "Hey, can I sit in your lap?" What do you say when she suddenly notices the props, costumes and other stage trappings, which further the idea that this is just the bunch of folks sitting around telling tall tales.

The cast does an amazing job of working together, considering the diverse character representations. Frank Ridley is Clement Musgrove, the kindly (and rich) plantation owner, who loves his daughter Rosamund (Lauren Hoffman Cochran). Rosamund finds her life uneventful and wants desperately to fall in love with a tall, dark stranger. Bonnie Derman '84 portrays Rosamund's shrewish stepmother who has desires of her own, most notably money and handsome young men.

Don Baliltigier and Joseph Brown '84 are Big and Little Harry, respectively. The most interesting thing about this humbling pair of highway robbers is that Big Harry is a disembodied head — it seems that anything at all can happen in these tales. Gamula Pharris is the wise, old plantation mistress with an inexhaustible collection of stories and legends. Phoebe Green, Gregory R. Brown, and Julie M. Tiao '83 are the members of the "Goat" family, poor farmers who can't seem to raise 25 brain cells between them and, therefore, are drawn unwittingly into the schemes of others. And in perhaps the most creative, less talkative, role Iris Rakin plays the Raven, dressed all in black silk and brocade.

Whether or not you've ever traveled the Natchez Trace and heard those long, tall tales of the Bandit of the Woods you'll be singing, clapping and laughing with delight at The Robber Bridgewood.

Bill Giffire