Trudeau satire unsatable, only medium-funny

Rap Master Ronnie, music by Elizabeth Swados, lyrics by Gerry Trudueau, with Jim Morris as Ronald Reagan. Next Move Theatre, Boston.

Rap Master Ronnie is only medium-funny. It is supposedly satirical, but true satire revolves around raising consciousness. Gerry Trudueau's creation is mostly superficial. Its skin-deep caricature of obvious jokes is good for producing a few belly laughs. But as a whole the show lacks in educational as well as in entertainment-value.

Benmarc'h': Le mariage de Figaro broke with the commedia dell'arte tradition by making us cry as well as laugh. No more were mere puppets dangled in front of us; even stock characters were intended to make us think as well as laugh.

The best number in Rap Master Ronnie is "Self Made Man," strongly sung and acted by Jeff Lyons. It works because it is "Self Made Man," strongly sung and well-choreographed. On the other hand, "New Year's in Beirut" - sung by Jeff Lyons and well-choreographed, is medium-funny. It is supposed to be satirical, but true satire revolves around raising consciousness, and Rap Master Ronnie is only medium-funny. It is supposedly satirical, but true satire revolves around raising consciousness.

But the lines they are given are unsubtle - as in commedia dell'arte tradition - the production we get little more than we expect, and the satirical and pointedness of the whole enterprise makes us feel empty. To make matters worse, the music by Elizabeth Swados is bland and unoriginal. The band plays well, but they cannot begin to res

The Tech Performing Arts Series presents...

AMERICAN VOCALARTS QUINTET

Valentine Day's concert

The American VocalArts Quintet will present a Valentine Day's program entitled "Wine, Women, and Song," including works composed by women and about women and romantic love. Longy School of Music, February 14 at 8pm. MIT price: $3.

BOSTON PREMIERE ENSEMBLE

Candlelight Salute to the Sun King

The Boston Premiere Ensemble, E John Adams, conductor, will give their third annual candlelight concert, featuring soloists selected from a competition in January. The program includes works by Lully, François Couperin, Delalande and Charpentier. Church of the Advent, Boston, February 22 at 8pm. MIT price: $5.

Tickets will be sold by the Technology Community Association, W20-452 in the Student Center. As opening hours are currently a bit sporadic, please call before you come. If nobody is in, please leave your order and your phone number on the TCA answering machine at 253-4885. You will be called back as soon as possible.

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