MEASURE FOR MEASURE

By JULIAN WEST

THE VERY IDEA OF A PLAY by e.e. cummings. Written by e.e. cummings. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" can vary quite considerably from one staging to another. The weaknesses were in smaller details and here the limited rehearsal schedule showed insensitivity. There were no obrevious errors in lines or timing, yet it seemed that something was lacking from the delivery, that not all of the meaning was wrong out of the lines, or the plays.

The first play, "Anthropos," contained two stereotypes of the neanderthal cavemen, who stood in for contemporary reals. Three grunting "intraduction..." type thought aloud on one side of the stage, on the other, a single man marxiously painted a mastodon. The decision to make the creatures (who call each other "G", "O", and "P"); although this is not a very revealing clue) speak more like newsmen or Madison Avenue names than cavemen was an interesting one, but it was distracting to have them carrying on like baboons between scenes. Such is the case in the enacting production put on by Shakespeare & Company at The Mount. How could it be otherwise? Consider that the stage is a genuine forest, the audience is comfortably seated on a grassy bank before the spotlights take over. (subject to the vagaries of New England weather) into dusk before the spotlights take over.

There were two stereotypes of the neanderthal cave men which made the players sit home to a modern audience, although it did have much to do with other aspects of the direction of Julie Theriot '88.

Theriot managed to make the plays look on stage very much like they would have looked in Shakespeare's days. She had a genuine forest on stage, where the audience could comfortably be seated on a grassy bank before the spotlights take over.

In lieu of the forest, such is the case in the enacting production. The setting is outdoors, and the performance put on by Shakespeare & Company at The Mount. How could it be otherwise? Consider that the stage is a genuine forest, the audience is comfortably seated on a grassy bank before the spotlights take over.

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