Beware: Mindless Teenage Sex XVI now playing at area theaters

This sort of anarchic filmmaking thoroughly undercuts the claim that advertising is a morally bankrupt industry, and it doesn't really allow the film to work as a comedy, or much of anything else for that matter. Unlike 1987's Eat the Rich (another anarchic and strange British film), How To Get Ahead in Advertising has difficulty staying in one's head for more than a few minutes after the film ends.

Now playing at the Paris cinema.

Roger Norrington breathes freshness into Idomeneo

The orchestra included only about 40 instruments, a good many of them unfamiliar to modern ears. The chorus, consisting of about 150 voices, was placed in the back of the theater, so that the musicians were not drowned out by the choral sound. The conductor, Roger Norrington, was thoroughly in control of the proceedings. He conducted without a baton, making deft finger motions like a puppet-master, and seemingly communicating to the entire chorus and orchestra, including those strings seated behind him.

Amid the vocal performances, the standout was Jeffrey Thomas as Idomeneo. His performance was the more outstanding as he was originally to sing Arbace, but took over the title role after Anthony Rolfe Johnson became indisposed. His emotive rendering of Idomeneo's second act aria "Fuor del mar" poured beautifully out to fill the hall. Even his act-ending recitative "Eccoti in me, barbaro Namur" conveyed powerful feeling.

Lorraine Hunt was a sweet-voiced, somewhat naive Idamante. Jeanne Demaré provided an Ili of radiant clarity, but her voice was occasionally swallowed up by the orchestra. Altogether, there was sufficient vocal talent on hand to make the great third-act quartet an experience not easily forgotten. (Lisa Saffer, as Elettra, made up the fourth of the quartet.)

No matter how familiar they are with their period instruments, the light tenor parts are a formidable task for any orchestra. Yet after nearly three hours of music, they were able to play the final balet, which amounts to a short symphony, with considerable style and expression. It provided an exhilarating conclusion to the evening.