Veronica's Room worth seeing for its craftsmanship

VERONICA'S ROOM
By Ira Levin.
Directed by Lia Stromer.
Kresge Little Theatre, Nov. 15-17, 21-23, 8 pm.

By NIC KELMAN

This presentation of Ira Levin's early '50s creation by the MIT Community Players is definitely worth seeing for its quality of craftsmanship. Director Lia Stromer has obviously put an enormous amount of thought into exactly how to present this characteristically complex Levin play. Levin is always difficult to direct as, frequently, his characters are not at all who they appear to be at first half and second, the performances in Veronica's Room would have been truly first class.

Recognition is also due to the set designer, John Savage. He decided to go with a realistic set, the only sensible choice for a Levin's plays are. However, it is his execution of this set that requires special mention. He has hung three doors from his set one of which actually locks and a pair of heavy shutters. The significance of this to those who have never built a set requires special mention. He has hung anything as heavy as a door from a set requires very careful design of both the walls of the set and its supporting struts if the set is not to collapse in use. This move on Savage's part, while necessary for the story, was nevertheless very courageous. It is a shame, given the above, that the lighting was not designed with more careful attention to ambience. Kathleen McElroy's design is too harsh and too stark to complete the mood produced by the production's other elements.

Veronica's Room is definitely worth seeing for an evening's light entertainment. The play, while by no means Levin's best, is still definitive Levin and provides the complexity of a good story without the intricacies of deeper issues, as his fans have come to expect. On top of this, the production is more than competent and executes the script with charming and appropriate theatricality. Overall, the play's elements come together nicely to make what is, essentially, a very good production.

Man (Andrew Oliver, second from left) and Woman (Cheryl Dedora, right) coax and cajole Young Man (Timothy Tavano) and Girl (Barbara Kanady) to have Girl impersonate Veronica.

"A FILM PHANTASMAGORIA!"

"STUNNING!" Cary Grant, THE NEW YORK TIMES
"DAZZLING! John Gaskamp is astounding!" -New Times, ROLLING STONE
"VISUALLY BEAUTIFUL!" John Wilson, NEW YORK SUNDAY

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