Gentilhomme full of humor and Dramashop class

LE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME

By Molieres

Presented by MIT DramaTroup

Translated from the French

Directed by Richard McClane

Starring Adam Goodie and Orrie Ferris

Kresge Little Theater. Feb. 13-15

By William Chuang

Walked into this play knowing nothing about it, and not as a part of all of what to expect. What I received was an evening of excellent humor and acting fuse a comedy performance which left me in good spirits and got its message across. I gave it three out of four stars.

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme, or A Touch of Class is a molding comedy about social status and the lengths some might go to gain it. Specifically, it is about M. Jourdain (Adam Goodie), a prominent French gentleman, and his maid Nicole (Kelly Blochwish '95) both have more common sense, so does Lucille (Sara A. Lederman '95), the Jourdain's daughter.

M. Jourdain, because of his lack of taste, general cluelessness, and of course, his deep patron's interest in the arts, his lack of taste, general cluelessness, and of course, his deep

care for their roles, and their ability to speak and act with flair. The play is both a comedy of manners and social satire, and it is performed with wit and precision. The audience is left laughing and feeling amused by the situations and characters presented in the play. A Musical Theater Guild performance can be an entertaining, enjoyable experience for all those who attend.

The orchestra, an active off-stage component of the play, is strongly integrated into the play. Their Baroque music was reminiscent of the courtly players of the Sun King and accompanied the onstage action well. It was hard to notice the lighting because of the superior sound work. The side windows moved from noon to evening without a hitch. The set was harmoniously integrated into the play. A large painting of M. Jourdain was particularly striking. The arrangement of the props left a clear amount of room for the dancers, whose Baroque performance was well choreographed; the mock-Turkish dancing and belly dancers were interesting as well.

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme is an excellent production, from the translation to the acting to the set. I was quickly absorbed in it, and found myself laughing along with the crowd throughout the play. So if you're in the mood for a good laugh, head over to the Kresge Little Theatre this weekend. You won't be disappointed, and hopefully a think the next time you put social status before all else.

MTG offers audience interactive entertainment

CABARET

Tony-award winning musical

By John Kander and Fred Ebb

Presented by the MIT Musical Theater Guild

Sala de Puerto Rico

Jan. 31-Feb. 2 & Feb. 6-8

By Larry McDougan

A musical by the Musical Theater Guild is indeed an experience not to be missed. Their latest production, Cabaret, was charged with energy and enthusiasm. The Guild aims to have fun with their musicals and the audience.

On Thursday night's performance, the audience was captivated. As the audience was captivated, so were I. I was so engaged in the story that I didn't notice the passing of time. The actors were excellent, and their acting and singing were superb. The songs were well-choreographed, and the set design was visually captivating. Overall, it was a memorable evening of entertainment that left me with a smile on my face.

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Medicine Man's mundane storyline could use some healing of its own

MEDICINE MAN

Written by David Mamet

Directed by John McClane

Starring Christopher Convery and Luann Bracco

At Lewis Court

By Chris Roberson

Medicine Man, one of the most politically correct adventure films to be released recently, has several good things going for it. The story concerns the search for a cure for cancer, a plea to halt the destruction of the world's rainforests, a romantic comedy, exotic locations, and not least of all, tastic Convery. But the movie, directed by John McClane, is predictable and predictable, with hard-core action and The Hunt For Red October fans, somehow manages to be as exciting in its causes and mixing of payoffs. Medicine Man is half-baked entertainment that could use some healing itself.

As the film opens, Dr. Rae Crane (Luann Bracco) arrives in the Amazon rain forest to meet with Dr. Robert Campbell (Christopher Convery), a prominent Swedish biochemist so immersed in his field work that a request for an assistant and a chromatograph is his first communication with the outside world. After years, Crane has traveled to Campbell's laboratory, set up a remote native village, not only to respond to his message, but to investigate the work and determine if his funding should be cut off. Immediately, the two scientists find themselves at odds because Campbell had asked for more help and, to quote the movie's title screen, "A hard-headed female scientist is the last thing Campbell wants around his camp.

Campbell begins to warm up to Crane, who she first refers to as "Dr. Mengels with a ponytail," particularly after the team of experts from the significance of his findings. As they watch the local medicine man working in the village, Campbell comes across a scene that provides a miraculous, effective cure for cancer. However, shortly after witnessing the medicine's success, Campbell states, "much of the native's respect away from him with his modern drugs," and the medicine man, filled with jealousy, leats to dig in. Now Campbell cannot reproduce the cure, and he helps with the help of the talented Dr. Crane, he can discuss the elusive ingredient, referred to as "poz 39." Because of the mistranslation on the chromosome.

As the duo embarks on the journey to their search, construction crews make their way through the jungle toward the primitive research center, with Which it refers to as a body of the planet. At the same time, Campbell begins to come to terms with a past, and the two scientists begin to fall in love. Medicine Man does a fair job of building up these subtleties, but few of them reach any type of satisfying climax. The romance remains unresolved, mainly due to a strong lack of chemistry between Convery and Bracco. The deforestation motif is touched upon only slightly and could have used more depth. And the scientific quest storyline, which should provide the film's central pull, suffers from flatly prominent front-staging. It's a definite flaw in a story such as this when the "experts" on the screen are incapable of realizing something even after another character stops forward to tell them.

Convery's performance is very strong and enjoyable. He commands the audience's attention as a few actors can. But Bracco, who excelled in 1990's Goodfellas, is the star here — not just in the jungle setting, but in a script that attempts to develop the character complexity that she is used to. There is something else fairly troubling about Medicine Man. Here, in an extraordinary scene in which Campbell introduces Crai to the beauty of the jungle and the complicated system of harnesses, platforms, and tugboats used to travel through the forest canopy is a...