Baby is humorous, entertaining, vicious

Baby with the Bathwater

Presented by the MIT Community Players. A vicious comedy by Christopher Durang. Directed by Stephen Kellog. Kresge Little Theater. March 13, 1 and 14, 8.5 pm.

By William Chang

Barbara with the Bathwater is exactly what it advertises to be—"a vicious comedy"—where writer Christopher Durang manages to poke fun at just about everything. In this case, everything runs from male/female relationships, married life, expectations, child care, hospitals, poverty, and callousness to inhumanity, female superiority, dramatic situations, college, general silliness, parental resentment, early marriage, and more.

This is not to say that Baby isn't funny. It is, provided you take it lightly and in stride. But afterwards you may find yourself thinking about those same topics in light of your own experiences and it may start you wondering.

Older audiences may find the play slightly unsettling. But if you have a group of friends and are in the mood for a night of satire and "vicious comedy," get some tickets to this play.

Just before the play opens, the audience gets a good look at the prop adorning the stage—a large mural of a happy couple holding up their baby, somewhat reminiscent of the 1950s and a visually pleasing and reassuring backdrop. Helen (Andrea McGimsey '87) and John (Derek Clark '89) come on stage as a young couple with their first baby. However, as the play progresses this couple acts less and less like the idealized family in the mural.

At first, Helen's fear seems somewhat normal for an excited young mother: when John calls the baby his "little baked potato," she reacts violently, saying that he is not entitled to cause later mental problems for their child. Moreover, the baby's characteristics, which the child is, and since Helen wants a girl, a girl it is! Financial difficulties plague the parents, nonetheless. At first, Helen's fears seem somewhat normal for an excited young mother: when John calls the baby his "little baked potato," she reacts violently, saying that he is not entitled to cause later mental problems for their child.

Rigoletto


March 13, 1992

THE TECH

ARISSTAFF

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THE ARTS

MANDALA FOLK DANCE ENSEMBLE

The multi-cultural dance ensemble and orchestra perform folk dances from such nations as Russia, China, Mexico, Bulgaria, and Poland.

Friday, March 27, 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 28, 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, March 29, 2:00 p.m.; New England Hall.

MIT Price: $5

Ruth Ann Swenson plays a tender Gilda in Verdi's Rigoletto at the Metropolitan Opera.