Flawed Romeo and Juliet delivers strong emotions

ROMEO AND JULIET
Written by William Shakespeare. Directed by Jayme Koszyn. Starring Monica Gomi '94 and Eugene Chiang '95. Grange Little Theater. November 17-21, 8:00 p.m.

By Joshua Andresen

The MIT Shakespeare Ensemble has created an unusual and captivating production of Romeo and Juliet. Director Jayme Koszyn gives a very dark interpretation of Shakespeare's classic love story, emphasizing the evil in many of the characters. Monica Gomi '94 gives an evocative portrayal of Juliet, a role that is traditionally played as naive. Koszyn makes this a dark play by bringing out the evil in the characters of Capulet and Paris. Capulet (Orin Tempkin G) is portrayed as a businessman who wears expensive suits, shoves Tybalt (Orin Percus G) aside at the Capulet's gathering when Tybalt threatens to commit suicide rather than face life in prison. He does not hesitate to abuse his daughter and shoves her around when she disobeys him. Koszyn also did an amazing job directing this play. The blocking is perfect and the use of the serim, which is an integral part of the set, is novel and effective. In one particularly nice effect, Paris and Capulet discuss the arranged marriage of Juliet and Paris over a marble desk while behind the scenes Lady Capulet (Stephanie Gellar '94) sits motionless, holding a basin of Tybalt's blood.

The characterizations of Capulet and Paris make the anguished grieving of Juliet even more pitiful, and Gomi delivers an amazing performance in this respect. Her eyes, expressions, and body movement were perfect in arousing the emotions she meant to portray. Koszyn also did an amazing job directing this production. From the costumes and hair to the use of modern costuming and professions, Koszyn creates an unusual and captivating play. The bawdiness is delivered in a subtle and dignified manner, as opposed to the lurid style of the rap lyrics. The show is not without its weaknesses. The performances of Rosa Ren '94 as the nurse and Vima Jee '95 as Friar Lawrence were substandard. Neither said their lines clearly or expressively. The nurse especially needs to be effective, as she is meant to provide the comic relief. Ren delivered her lines with a flat intonation throughout, and most of her humorous lines were lost on the audience.

THE TECH PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

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Friday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m., Symphony Hall.

MIT price: $7.

Tickets are on sale at the Technology Community Association, W20-450 in the Student Center. Office hours are posted on the door. Call x3-4885 for further information.

The Tech Performing Arts Series, a service for the entire MIT community, from The Tech, MIT's student newspaper, in conjunction with the Technology Community Association, MIT's community service organization.

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For information or an application, contact: Dean's Office, School of Humanities and Social Science, E51-234 (x3-8961) or the HASS Information Office, 14N-408 (x3-4443).

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1992

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