THE ARTS

MTG stages enjoyable but amateurish Apple Tree

By Douglas D. Keller

The Apple Tree by Jean-Pierre Melville is a fascinating comedy set in a French prison during World War II. The story follows three cellmates who escape from prison to become jewel thieves and eventually end up in the midst of the German occupation of France. The production at MIT's Musical Theatre Guild is directed by Daniel McCall and features a cast of student actors and musicians.

The central character is Dax, a hardened convict played by Robert J. Steinmiller Jr. Dax is a complex character who at times is ruthless and无情, but also has a soft side that is revealed through his interactions with his fellow inmates. The other two main characters are Georges and Max, played by Thomas C. Conley and John Leary respectively. Georges is a bit of a软弱, while Max is a bit more naive and easily swayed by Dax's charismatic presence.

The production is a bit uneven, with some moments of comic timing and others feeling more forced. The musical numbers are well-choreographed, but the acting is a bit stilted in places. Overall, however, it is an entertaining production that offers a different take on the classic prison drama genre.

JACK THE BEAR

By Joshua M. Anderson

Jack the Bear is a musical about a boy named Jack who is left to take care of his younger brother, who has a rare disease that makes him growth-irresistable. The story is told through a series of songs and music numbers, with the songs often being used to express Jack's feelings about his situation.

The production is well-conceived, with a strong focus on the themes of family, responsibility, and hope. The cast is talented, with strong performances from the leads and solid supporting work from the ensemble. The music is catchy and memorable, with a variety of styles ranging from pop to jazz.

Overall, Jack the Bear is a compelling and emotional production that resonates with audiences of all ages. It is a testament to the power of music and storytelling to convey complex emotions and messages.