Acuña, Prenner engage audience in Nebula

THE GREAT NEBULA IN ORION

Directed by Sameera Iyengar '93.
Starring Ivi Acuña '94 and Emily Prenner '93.
Written by Lanford Wilson.

Dec. 2-4, 8 p.m.
Student Center, Room 407.

TheGreatNebulainOrion

A chance meeting in New York City brings two Bryn Mawr friends, Louise (Ivi Acuña '94) and Carrie (Emily Prenner '93), together for the first time in six years. Louise is a Boston socialite, with a rich husband, beautiful children, and a successful independent life. The two go to Louise's apartment overlooking Central Park for coffee, which quickly turns to Brady.

We immediately see an inability for the two characters to communicate; it is a struggle to maintain real conversation. Each woman quickly reveals her jealousy of the other's perfect life. Both characters also break down the fourth wall, using an intimacy with the audience as a substitute for intimacy with each other. Instead of using unheard soliloquies to reveal inner thoughts, the audience is engaged as a third participant in the conversation. It is a theatrical device which works very well here, quickly drawing in the audience.

With each other, the women both attempt to reach out, but then retract for fear of real contact. Carrie brings up an old acquaintance effusively and soon drops the subject. Louise, however, will not let it go and keeps pressing the point until we learn that he is an old flame for whom Carrie still longs, either in the flesh or as a symbol of a freer, more passionate life.

When one is not questioning the other, the players become a study in contrasts, the latter perhaps because of the former's failure to maintain reality in conversation. This is also shown in the way they both bring two Bryn Mawr friends, Louise (Ivi Acuña '94) and Carrie (Emily Prenner '93), together for the first time in six years. Louise is a Boston socialite, with a rich husband, beautiful children, and a successful independent life. The two go to Louise's apartment overlooking Central Park for coffee, which quickly turns to Brady.

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