The Foundling Review

Too Venomous

I take great offense at the unnecessarily negative and insulting review of the MIT_Gen_and_Sullivan-Payers' production of my opera, The Foundling, which was written by Jonathan Richland (Southern-almost Foundling years ago). In fact, I would be glad to write a letter to the editor in response to the review provided by this opera's review.

I was glad to see that the Foundling is a flawed masterpiece. Some of Richland's expressions, though, if the reviews were removed, would not seem so.

I don't pretend, either, that the performance is flawless. The performers are students and amateurs, and they sometimes misjudge the line of the play or out of tune. And, as I was perfectly aware of every gesture of mine on the podium that didn't work. Still, the production isn't that bad, especially, if one considers — as a reviewer for this Tech should — that this opera has managed to be a very large and rarely utilized show in a very short time in a very inconvenient performance space. There is enough good singing, playing, and acting to go around, judged by an appropriate standard, this show holds its own among any of the stage productions that I have seen at MIT in recent years.

I was told that Richland is personally attached to the works of Gilbert and Sullivan. Perhaps this is why he feels entitled to slam the authors and performers of an original work upon which he has worked so hard. It is the case, then, that I suggest he not cover next year's G&S productions. As a reviewer, he is entitled to his opinions, but he should be responsible enough to keep his emotions separate from his critical faculties, at least in print. There is simply no call for the arrogant rudeness displayed in this review.

Robert J. Weisgall

Opinion Policy

Editorials, printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of The Tech. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, executive editor, news editors, and opinion editors.

Dissent, marked as such and printed in a distinctive format, are the official opinion of one or more members of the editorial board. A dissenting editor reserves the right to publish an unsigned response.

Letters to the editor are written by individuals and represent the personal opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are printed by the editorial board and appears in the newspaper.

Letters to the editor are printed by the editorial board and appear in The Tech.