GUYS AND DOLLS
MIT Musical Theatre Guild
La Sala de Puerto Rico
Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 3-5, 8 p.m.;
Oct. 30, 2 p.m.
Directed by Peter J. Taris '93.
Dechetra directed by Jeffrey A. Morrow '96
Music and Book by Frank Loesser.
Directed by Peter J. Tarsi '93.
Starring John M. de Guzmán '97,
Music and Book by Frank Loesser.
Orchestra directed by Jeffrey A. Morrow '96.

With weak female leads and despite
strong male leads, the MIT Musical
Theater Guild presents a lack-
luster production Guys and Dolls,
the classic musical about bad men and
the women who love them. The bad men
come out looking quite good, while the good
women give only mediocre showings.
The first three-quarters of the show plod along
trelessly, though it does finally pick up steam
by the end of the second act, giving a semi-
satisfactory catharsis to the on-again, off-
again performance.

John M. de Guzmán '97 and Andrew J.
Berger G steal the show as the low-life gam-
bler and the visiting high roller from
Detroit, the man who runs the craps game as
Nicely-Nicely Johnson. Also, her
character loosens up and falls in love with the
sousergeant in the Salvation Army. Also, her
acting is fluent and perfectly executed (with a shrug of
her shoulders and a flip of her hat), his singing
is of variable quality. The pit
orchestra, under the direction of Jeffrey A.
Morrow '96, is excellent, and (in sharp con-
trast to some recent shows) is in wonderful
balance with the singers. Other than a few
scattered intonation problems, they saved
quite cart. The stage direction has sev-
eral wonderful moments, such as when Pres-
ident Charles M. Vest’s voice as telephone
character Joey Biltmore, or the hilarious
dream sequences for Miss Adelaide and
Sarah Brown, or the choreography for wait-
ress Laura Allen W-'96; but, there aren’t
enough of these moments overall. The
show’s program really sticks out as a missed
opportunity for some additional class. It
consists of three loose folded sheets of badly
photocopied text with writer/composer
Frank Loesser’s name misspelled on the
front cover. Producer Jacqueline Brenner '96
would have done well to pay a bit more
attention to such details.

The supporting male cast members do a
fine job with their choruses and dancing parts.
Ethan L. Butler G as Nicely-Nicely Johnson
and Evan Serbrooke G as Big Jule are particu-
larly outstanding. Butler has a delightfully
comic New York accent, and his aloof delivery
charms the audience. Serbrooke was simply
hilarious as the visiting high roller from
Chicago. The smug and stupid expression on
his face matches his demeanor perfectly.

His mother may have been right if she told him
that funny faces can stick, because he doesn’t
break his character’s parted lips during the
performance, even while dancing.

Like the acting, the production side of
the show is of variable quality. The pit
orchestra, under the direction of Jeffrey A.
Morrow ‘96, is excellent, and (in sharp con-
trast to some recent shows) is in wonderful
balance with the singers. Other than a few
scattered intonation problems, they saved
quite cart. The stage direction has several
wonderful moments, such as when Pres-
ident Charles M. Vest’s voice as telephone
character Joey Biltmore, or the hilarious
dream sequences for Miss Adelaide and
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attention to such details.

Still, the good moments that the show has
are worthwhile. The ensemble finally com-
terparts. While Jennifer Santos is plenty
among women, Grace E. Colon G, Andrew J.
Berger G, and Jennifer Santos, during the opening act of the Musical Theatre Guild’s presentation of Guys
and Dolls.

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INFORMATION SESSION
November 2, 1994, 5-00 - 7:00pm
Room 4-159

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November 3, 1994

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