

Fables, tales brought to life

By RICHARD HENDERSON
Staff Writer
Picture if you will a meeting between the Grimm Brothers and Aesop. Picture a group of cutout people brought to life to perform in games for the three. And now picture all this in a setting of revolving

lights and contemporary music. If your imagination is up to it, "Story Theater" is ready for you.

"Story Theater" is the Aggie Players' second production of the season, directed by Dr. John Joy, instructor in theater arts. It is presented in the Forum Theater, which adds a sense of closeness to the actors that is refreshing.

The meeting of the Grimms and Aesop is part of the introduction written by director Joy to introduce the audience to the nature of the play. They set out to correct the "misconception of morbidity" around their fables, and use cutout people to disprove that fables are lifeless.

There are several threads which run through the ten fables reproduced in "Story Theater" the strongest of which is irony. In the fable of the "Robber Bridegroom" an innocent bride-to-be is led to a robbers' den under the assumption of marriage to the chief robber. During the night she observes the murder of a young maid and escapes to return home. When the robber comes looking for her, she relates his deed to the townspeople, who murder him. This in itself is not ironic, but when "you don't have to worry . . . anymore" from Dylan's "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight" blends in, it becomes so.

Although much of the play is high

volume slapstick, particularly in "The Bremen Town Musicians" (in which the animal imitations make the play) there are poignant and pointed moments, and these seem to come during the shorter scenes.

The fable of the two crows is a good example. After convincing his companion to fly to 10,000 feet and drop a mussel on the rocks to open it, the crow on the ground calmly picks it up and eats it while the rightful owner flaps wheezing in the sky. Ironically, "I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends" is the music.

The Fisherman's Wife, is a fable of the woman who is granted, but never satisfied with, favors from a magical flounder caught by her husband. After being granted the wish to become Pope, the fisherman's wife shouted exclamations like "Provolone! Lasagna!" which hinted clergy ridicule, an element found in many of the fables.

One of the funniest parts, and one which was most well received by the audience was the fable of "Henny Penny." After being informed the sky is falling, Foxy Woxy says in a Richard Nixon voice, "I've noticed that. I take full responsibility."

The acting in "Story Theater" is high-energy. The slapstick parts come off forcefully and are genuinely funny. But it is when the antics slow down, and the moody parts begin that the play is most effective.

Campus briefs

Canoers plan trip

Canoing enthusiasts are invited to the organizational meeting of the Memorial Student Center Outdoor Recreation Committee at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in room 230 of the MSC.

The group will discuss a planned venture down the Guadalupe River through the rugged Texas hill country.

The excursion is for experienced canoers and will be held Saturday and Sunday.

Thanksgiving service scheduled

The Student Y Association announces that the Thanksgiving service will be held in the All Faiths Chapel Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Larry Grubbs will speak at the service. All students are welcomed to this campus-wide event.

Biology preregistration planned

Preregistration instructions for all majors in the Department of Biology are now available at the north entrance to the new Biological Sciences Building.

Students should pick up a copy of the instructions and read them carefully before preregistration begins Dec. 2, since undergraduate student preregistration will be handled on an alphabetical basis.

Poetry Society awards student

A TAMU graduate English student has been honored by the Poetry Society of Texas.

Pamela Lynn Palmer of Houston won a first and two second place awards for poems. She was presented her laurels at a recent awards banquet in Dallas.

She read her first place winner, "The River of the Universe." The poem won the John A. Lubbe Award and will be published in the 1975 version of "A Book of the Year" anthology put out by the state society.

Services scheduled for Bryan woman

Mrs. Richard C. (Eva) Potts, wife of the associate dean for instruction in the College of Agriculture, died Wednesday after an extended illness.

Funeral services for Potts are set for 10 a.m. Friday at the Memorial Funeral Chapel of Bryan. Interment will follow in the College Station Cemetery.

Potts resided in Bryan for more than 35 years and was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Bryan for many years. Her husband has served as associate dean since 1968 and was assistant dean and professor in the College of Agriculture for many years. He served on numerous committees for Masters and Ph.D. programs, as well as

providing career counseling for many other students.

Besides her husband, Potts is survived by four children, Kent Potts and Joel Potts of Bryan; Mrs. Andrew (Linda) Andersson of Houston; and Mrs. Ray (Jean) Prewett of Austin; eight grandchildren; and one brother, Douglas C. Simmons of Houston.

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