

Aggie Players

Standing ovation given despite thin plot, undertrained actors

By B. J. STRODE

The Aggie Players' production of "Celebration" opened last night in Rudder Auditorium. The show consists of 2 1/2 hours of lively, colorful action camouflaging a thin plot.

Orphan, played by John Barnes, is looking for his garden. With the help of Potempkin (Mitch Hall), he makes a deal with Mr. Rich (Steve Bales). In return for teaching Mr. Rich how to "feel" again, Orphan can have his garden back.

In the process of completing the bargain, Orphan meets Angel, played by Celina Ellington, who wants to be somebody. They fall in love, of course. Mr. Rich tries to back out on his end of the deal, but in the end they all live happily ever after.

John Barnes is gloriously blonde and innocent. His voice is certainly not flat, but his acting is. However, his looks and his singing manage to carry the part of the wide-eyed innocent fairly well.

Potempkin is a Fagin-like character (for those who have seen "O-liver!") whose loyalty fluctuates with

the rewards to be won. Mitch Hall handles the part very well, both acting and singing. He was the only one of the major characters who seemed to know how to use a microphone.

The villain of the piece, Mr. Rich, is delightfully portrayed by Steve Bales. The role did not require a well-trained voice, but it did require the ability to sell a song, and Bales excels in that ability.

DRAMA REVIEW

Celina Ellington makes a stunning picture in her white robes and wings, which are discarded subsequently for gold-sequined hot pants. She also sells her songs, but does best on the belting, vibrant numbers. Her voice does not lend itself to saccharine love songs.

Several numbers got a helping hand from the Revelers. Their voices and sundry antics were sometimes amusing, sometimes distracting. Outstanding style and spirit were exhibited by Nancye Gandy and Steve King. Gandy is also a pretty good whistler.

Beau Sharbrough pulled a work-

able arrangement out of some mediocre music. He conducted Michael Wilson, Jon Juneau and Russell Harris in some virtuoso performances. The band, and especially the drums, occasionally overpowered the vocalists.

Lights designed by R. W. Wenck and run by a crew under the direction of Ralph Weber added a colorful touch. There was some precision spotlighting and a few excellent special effects.

Stage Manager Walt Meissner has once again outdone himself on the set. The stage is the same for the whole show and it is intricate enough to provide variety without producing confusion. Props were hampered by a grocery sack from Skaggs.

Costumes were designed by Margaret Thomas and executed by Phil Hafer and his crew. These folks obviously worked hard and the major characters were appropriately attired. The Revelers, however, appeared in all manner of weird and bizarre garb. The variegated colors, frequent costume changes, and bizarre masks were more often distracting than enhancing.

Carolyn Johnson choreographed the dances and also appeared as a Reveler. She did a good job in both areas, but could not dance all the parts. Most of the big production numbers suffered from an overabundance of undertrained actors who nevertheless cavorted with abandon. The lack of expert footwork was a serious drawback in only a few songs.

The Aggie Players have once again put together an enjoyable show from less-than-fantastic raw materials. The plot is old, the music ordinary, and the dialogue uninspired—with the exception of a few brilliant spots. Perhaps not surprising on opening night, the show was running slow. There were a few fumbles which were recovered with finesse. In spite of these difficulties, the show is good. It is humorous, a little madcap and at times touching. The cast and crew fully deserved the standing ovation they received last night, and not for effort alone. Go and see the show. If you don't come away feeling just a little more lighthearted, sue me.

Concerts, car-cram highlight Gas Week celebration mania

This is Gas Week and the Recreation Committee is sponsoring activities each day to celebrate the week of spring.

All activities will be held at the upper Fountain except where otherwise specified. Events include:

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| Tuesday
First Annual Card Stacking Contest, 12:30 p.m.
Basement Committee Outdoor Concert, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Recreation Committee Car Cram 3-5 p.m. | Wednesday
Hot Air Balloon Rides, Drill Field, 10 a.m.
Host & Fashion Committee Fashion Show.
Recreation Committee Balloon Stomp, all day. | Thursday
CAMAC Jalapeno-Eating Contest, 1 p.m.
Recreation Committee Giant Canvas, all day. | Friday
Life-Size Chess Game, all day.
Basement Outdoor Concert, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. | Saturday
Recreation Committee Frisbee Loan and Rock Music, all day. |
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Centennial series presents art films

"Art in Man's Experience" is being presented today through Friday as the last program in this year's Centennial Academic Assemblies series.

The program's two presentations link art and architecture. David Ross, Deputy Director of the Long Beach Museum of Art, will present "Video Art and the Architecture of Intention". The video-tape and film program will begin at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Harrington 110.

John Lunsford, curator of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts and professor of Art History at SMU, presents "Mayan Civilization: Art and Architecture Reveal a Society" Friday at 8 p.m. That program will also be in Harrington 110.

Supporting presentations for the program include:

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| Tuesday
Video Program I, 100 Harrington, 8 p.m. | Wednesday
Video Program II, 207 Harrington, 12 p.m.
"Film About a Woman Who", Yvonne Rainer, 204 Harrington, 4 p.m. | Thursday
Program of Regional Video Art, Harrington 103 and 104, 12 p.m.
Video Program II, Harrington 103 and 104, 4 p.m. |
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N.Y. Policeman protects oldsters

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Once a week policeman Richard Croce spends his lunch hour taking senior citizens shopping and banking.


Croce, 28, says he started leading the weekly expedition of as many as 50 elderly people after he was assigned to a beat that included the Mount Eden Senior Citizens Club in the Tremont neighborhood. It has the second highest crime rate in The Bronx.

"It was evident," said Croce, "that the oldsters that attend the club were living in fear of walking the streets. This was especially true

when they wanted to go shopping or banking."

So Croce got permission from his captain to use his lunch time once a week to escort the oldsters on their errands. Now club director Gloria Feldman says the old people couldn't do without him and look forward all week to their stroll.

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