

The Glass Menagerie

Emotions dominate play

By Colette Hutchings
Battalion Staff

A "Southern drama" dealing with anguish, frustration and warm human emotion will be presented this weekend and next by the Theater Art Department in Tennessee Williams' classic play "The Glass Menagerie." The storyline revolves around a traditional southern family which moves to a Missouri city. Amanda Wingfield (played by Sharon Barrow), grieving over her husband's desertion, lives with her two children: her crippled daughter Laura (played by Benita Faulkner) and her son Tom (played by Richard Strayer.)

Conflicts arise between Amanda and her son about the mother's over-protective attitude toward Laura, whose only true pleasure in life is a collection of glass animals in her menagerie.

Director Mary Ann Mitchell said the play traces the process in which the characters come to terms with themselves as individuals and as members of the family.

It's Laura who gets the bad

end of the deal in this search — Amanda uses her to make Tom feel guilty and, therefore, to keep him from leaving home and pursuing his own life. In turn, Tom uses his sister as a means to escape what he considers to be a prison.

"She's cruelly abused — not out of overt cruelty, but they use her to get what they need from each other," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said she selected the play because it is a "very human play."

She said: "I hope it reveals the pain we cause one another."

Mitchell said students have been working hard on designing the set and costumes, although the play's cast is small.

"Technically, it's an involved show," she said.

The set, lights, costumes were created and designed by students, as were the glass animals and the iron-rod table they are kept on.

"Glass Menagerie" will run tonight and Saturday, and March 4, 5 and 6 in Rudder Forum. Tickets are available at Rudder Box Office and are \$2.50 for students and \$3.50 for non-students.



photo by Diana Sultenfuss

Susan Charlton works on one of the glass animals which will be used in the Theater Arts Department's production of "The Glass Menagerie." The play runs tonight and Saturday night, and March 4, 5 and 6. Charlton learned this skill during a summer job.

MSC Fair brings campus touch of Hollywood

by Kelli Proctor
Battalion Reporter

Mime shows, a new wave band and game booths are planned for this year's MSC All Night Fair, which is scheduled to start at 9 p.m. tonight in the Memorial Student Center.

The theme of this year's fair is Hollywood, and romance, western, spy thriller, comedy, horror and silent movie themes will decorate the game booth sections.

Sue Leibert, MSC All Night Fair adviser, said Steve Harris, a mime artist from Kansas City, will perform two stage shows, one from 10 to 11 p.m. and another from 12:30 to 1:30 a.m..

The Inanimate Objects, a new wave band, will play throughout the night in Rumours. Admission for the band is \$2.50 at the door, Leibert said.

Any recognized student group at Texas A&M is encouraged to participate in the event, Leibert said. About 65 groups have already volunteered.

The fair is sponsored by the MSC Council. Although proceeds go to the Council, a large profit is not expected, Leibert said.

A 50 cent charge at the door will cover the MSC Council's expenses, and 10 cent tickets can be bought for the games. The games cost between two and five tickets.

Despite its name, the All Night Fair actually will not last the entire night.

"3 a.m. is late enough," Leibert said.

A&M student creates glass animals for play

By Colette Hutchings
Battalion Staff

When those little glass animals crash on stage in the Theater Arts production of "The Glass Menagerie," Susan Charlton will flinch. You can bet on it.

She's the theater arts major who has been painstakingly making the glass-blown animals for the past couple of weeks.

In the menagerie's collection are bears, giraffes, swans, doves and snails. She'll even weld a horn on a glass horse to create a unicorn.

On first glance making the figures seems easy, but Charlton said it takes a great deal of skill to turn a glob of glass into a giraffe.

In about one week, Charlton said, she completed 20 to 25 animals in her spare time — between working on costumes for the play and attending classes.

Some of those animals were broken during dress rehearsals but Charlton said that "several were made to be broken."

For the performances, she said, some of the animals will be wired to the shelf as insurance against breakage.

Charlton said she was drafted into creating animals for the play when she mentioned to a cast member that she used to glass-blow animals about two years ago.

"When I lived in Maryland, I was looking for a summer job and found an add for a glass apprentice," she said. She took the job and

worked with her employer for two years, where she learned to create glass figures.

Her employer sold the glass figures in shopping malls and stores.

Charlton said she made glass figure necklaces and earrings, and that her speciality was making glass teddy bears.

"It takes about five minutes for me to make one, once I get going," she said.

Although she doesn't have exact figures, Charlton said she believes the Theater Arts Department is saving money by having her make the animals.

"They would have ended up buying them all," she said, "and they can be expensive."

The glass was donated by Jack Shannon, who works in the glass repair shop in the Chemistry Department.

The Chemistry Department also supplied a regulator, which is used in the glass-blowing process. The Theater Arts Department had to supply oxygen and settling tanks, which cost about \$20 each.

Because of her inexperience in making glass unicorns, Charlton said, a horse is being imported from Dallas and she will weld the horn on it.

Charlton said she's been told by cast members that it really doesn't matter what the animals look like since they probably won't be eyed closely by the audience.

But she disagrees: "If they look ugly, I'll be embarrassed."

Thousands put their fingers on it...
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