



staff photo by David Fisher

Robbie Taylor (Sgt. Trotter, center) right) about their connection to a murder that took place in London in the Premier Players production of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap."

Audience is 'fooled again' in Agatha Christie's play

by Susan Dittman
Battalion Staff

The audience was fooled again in the Premiere Players' presentation of Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" in Rudder Forum Wednesday night.

The Premiere Players, sponsored by the Texas A&M University Theatre Arts program, is a summer performing group made up of high school students.

The play, which takes place in a guest house in the English countryside, revolves around seven people who are under suspicion of murdering a woman in London.

Misty Mukherjee, as Mollie Ralston, keeps a believable English accent throughout the play. As the mistress of the guest house, Mukherjee is one of the stronger members of the cast.

At times, she seems to keep the others in line when they are on the verge of breaking out of character.

The role of Giles Ralston, Mollie's husband, is played by Nathan David.

As the guests arrive at the Ralston's guest house one by one, the play develops into an intricate murder mystery with each

character acting mysterious in one way or the other.

The role of Chris Wren, an effeminate and slightly crazy young man who recites nursery rhymes is played by John Rice.

Rice's character brings humor to the play and laughter from the audience through his childish actions and sarcastic remarks.

Deana Schaffer as Mrs. Boyle, Creighton Bailey as Maj. Metcalf, and Amy Muse as Miss Casewell, portray their characters adequately.

The casting of Gary "Bomber" Pike, who appears to be the youngest cast member, as Mr. Paravicini, the oldest character in the play, is unconvincing. His high-pitched voice can hardly be heard past the third row.

The arrival of Sgt. Trotter, played by Robbie Taylor, is a welcome addition to the cast of characters.

Taylor is convincing as the policeman who comes to the

guest house to solve the murder crime.

His surprise appearance in the window, after having skied over the snow to the isolated guest house, brought applause from the audience.

All in all, this group of young actors did a good job presenting the longest running Broadway play on record. And they seemed to have a good time doing it.

"The Mousetrap" will be presented through July 31 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for all students. They are available at Rudder Box Office and at the door.

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'Players' act for summer fun

by Colette Hutchings
Battalion Staff

For eight high school students in the Bryan area, watching old T.V. reruns wasn't the ultimate in summer vacations. And with the help of a play audition ad in the newspaper, they were able to spice up their vacation.

The students, actors in The Premiere Players, which is currently performing Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" in Rudder Forum, are part of a program sponsored by Texas A&M's theater arts section.

The Premiere Players began in 1965 when Robert Wenck, a theater arts professor, decided that a summer theater was needed for high school students.

Since that time, summer performances have been held in

high school auditoriums, Zachry Engineering Center, cafeterias, and this summer in Rudder Forum.

Melissa Martin, a May graduate from Texas A&M with a degree in theater arts, is this summer's director.

Martin said that directing "Mousetrap" has been a learning experience for her. "You get to see a lot of growth," she said.

The young actors pay a \$10 registration fee to cover production costs and then attend daily rehearsals beginning at 7 p.m.

The cast was selected through auditions. Those who weren't selected as cast helped out.

"Last summer most of the kids had never been on the stage before," Martin said.

Robbie Taylor a 16-year-old Bryan High School senior and first time Premiere Player, said he participated in plays before and joined the Players when he "saw the ad one day and was bored."

Nathan David, a 16-year-old student at the High School for Performing Arts in Houston, said although he's gained theater experience at his school, "everytime you do a show you learn something new."

Amy Muse, a 17-year-old Bryan High School student, participated in the program last summer in the play "Picnic," and said: "It's a good experience, I learned a lot from last year."

Deana Schaffer, a 15-year-old Bryan High School student, who also participated in the program last year, said she also enjoys the summer program.

"I like to be on stage," she said.

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