# Lifestyles The Battalion

### Play Reviews

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Oct. 12

Tuesday, October 8, 1991



Shakespeare with a Twist **Aggie Players** dazzle audience with modern version of "The



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The characterization of each of the actors baffles the mind and a few overwhelm reality.

John Flores gives an outstanding performance Shylock and the Prince of Arragon. His believability and interpretation both convince the audience of his intentions, his feelings, and ultimately his frustrations.

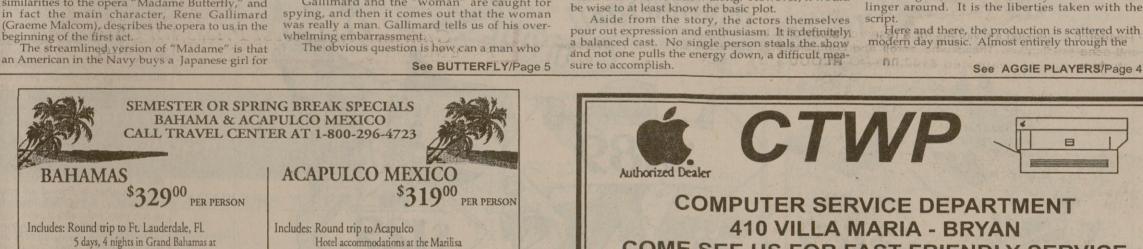
Flores was not alone in his excellence. Jessica Lowe has real class. Her portrayal of Portia is un-matched and her energy and stage presence seem to consume the entire theater.

Although at times she seemed more melodramatic, Lowe's manipulation of Shakespeare's difficult language remains impeccable.

In his debut performance at Texas A&M, South African student Rapulana Seiphimo went above and beyond. With such ease, he came and went and had the audience wrapped around his little fin-ger. His mezmorizing techniques and powerful presence held the moment of each scene.

But again, it is not the story or the cast that linger around. It is the liberties taken with the

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'M. Butterfly' shocks audience with subtle story, surprising sexual twist

By Timm Doolen

attendants at "M. Butterfly" were expecting the opera by Puccini, they got a big surprise. The "M" does not stand for "Madame" but rather for "Mr." in this humorous drama based loosely on a true story

Some people in the audience were not only surprised, but offended by this play about a French diplomat who falls in love with a young Chinese woman who turns out to be a man.

As the name might imply, the play has many similarities to the opera "Madame Butterfly," and in fact the main character, Rene Gallimard (Graeme Malcom), describes the opera to us in the beginning of the first act.

66 cents and eventually falls in love with her because she will do anything for him.

In "M.", Gallimard is stationed in the ambassador's office in China, and eventually falls in love with a local Chinese girl. He sees himself as Pinkerton from "Madame" and the girl Song Lil-ing (Francis Jue) as the little butterfly who will do anything for him.

From the early '60s to the mid-'80s, Gallimard and the butterfly chase each other in China and later in France. Unbeknownst to Gallimard, not only is Liling a man, but also a spy for Communist China during the whole affair

something not usually seen or expected by most audiences. But that's what gives it class

Gallimard and the "woman" are caught for

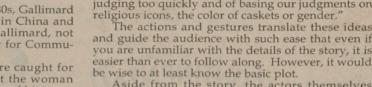
Shakespeare is often associated with confusing phrases and unfamiliar words, but the stories he fells and the characters he tells them with are intricate and exciting The Aggie Players pick right up on those hidden as ures. And as the program states,

By Terri Welch

It's different, but it's dazzling.Injected with non-traditional perks, the Aggie Players' rendition of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" is

treasures. 'Shakespeare cautions us about the dangers of judging too quickly and of basing our judgments on religious icons, the color of caskets or gender.

and guide the audience with such ease that even if you are unfamiliar with the details of the story, it is easier than ever to follow along. However, it would



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