

'Dutchess of Malfi' outdoes television's violence

BY JEFF SCHORR

If your idea of a night out at the theater is to get away from television's "sex and violence," you better steer clear of the Hilberry Theater's final repertory offering, "The Dutchess of Malfi."

The Wayne State University company does its usual excellent job with this heavy and horrible tale of passion and political intrigue set in Renaissance Italy. But the realistically gruesome bloodletting in the final act is so pervasive that by play's end, not a major character in the cast is alive.

John Webster, the author, has been compared favorably to his contemporary, William Shakespeare, and at times the lines and couplets remind you

Review

of the Bard. But the plot tends toward wearying ponderousness and the three-hour production — despite its fast-paced, swashbuckling finish — seems too long.

The principals do a fine job, particularly Jim Birdsall as the evil, brooding Cardinal and his equally dastardly and vengeful brother (though with a conscience) Prince Ferdinand, the Duke, played by Mark Robbins.

The play centers around their sister, the widowed Dutchess, played by Barbara Acker, and the bloody events set

in motion by her secret marriage after having been warned against such a thing by her brothers.

HOWEVER, JOHN Morgan Lund, in a major role, and Cynthia Dozier, in a supporting role, stood out as each of these characters appeared to be something other than they really were.

Lund, as a brooding, confused and bitter former soldier, Daniel de Bosola, is hired by the Dutchess to keep her horses, but his real role is to spy on her for her malevolent brothers who have a stake in family fortunes if she does not remarry.

The Dutchess, who needs her position to make romantic advances to Antonio (Geoffrey Beauchamp), master of the household, manages to have three children by him within the family house-

hold confines. Beauchamp is well-suited to the role of being at first overwhelmed, then loving and caring, and, finally the frustrated husband keeping his situation quiet.

Besola reports back to the brothers, and the evil plotting, vengeance, horror and suffering begins. Besola later repents, and the Prince, after reacting with a towering rage that leaves him mad when conscience finally strikes, is a dervish opposite to the Cardinal, his brother, a much more cunning, convincing person who plots both Besola's and his mistress Julia's murders behind the churchman's robes he wears.

Cynthia Dozier, who has played a sweet and charming Juliet among her several fine efforts over the last two years, is magnificent as the mistress of the Cardinal — delighting in the mutu-

al feeling of their contemporaries. When she switches loyalties to the depressed and agitated Besola at the end, their brief passion is believable and superb.

appropriate. The religious scene is a creative spectacle of excellence. Director Robert Magill combines the somber, serious, Catholic imagery of the medieval church with incense, candles, banners and pageantry to create a scenario that totally immerses.

THE COSTUMING is beautiful and

We play YOUR songs... and more!

Jim Davis
6:00-10:00AM

Meet Jim Davis. The man known for starting your day off on the right foot. His conversations at 7:25 with Elliott Abrams, our ACCU-WEATHER meteorologist brightens up even the grayest day. Jim will catch you up on the latest sports news with Mark Andrews and Jerry Green at 8:12. It's no wonder when 10:00 rolls around people feel like saying, Thanks, Jim...I needed that. Wake me up tomorrow, too.



WOMC

FM104



"The Dutchess of Malfi" features Barbara Acker, Mark Robbins (seated) and Geoffrey Beauchamp.

What
never wilts
for
Mother's
Day?

Sing & Gram
The Singing Telegram

phone 800-
328-5033

SINGLE?

For exciting things to do, great places to go and new people to meet. Join now.
559-5820

PEOPLE
TRACES & THINGS

29540 Southfield Rd.
Suite 100A
Southfield, Michigan
48076 (313) 559-5820

Please send brochure.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

IS YOUR HOT WATER OR STEAM HEAT
KEEPING YOU FROM A
CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING
SYSTEM?



SPACE PAK BY DUNHAM-BUSH

Sound suppressing. Draft-free Humidity Reducing. Sensibly Priced. SPACE PAK cools fast and dehumidifies better — removes as much as 50% more moisture than ordinary central systems. Quiet. Bladeless comfort, no mugginess. Cool, dry air is mixed without drafts throughout each room. The Space Pak system has sound-absorbing qualities that minimize noise.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:
O. L. JOHNSON CO. INC.
893-8344

PERRY Drug Stores
SALE STARTS NOW ENDS MAY 6, 1979

AUTO DISCOUNTS PARTS

*Troy Maple at Coolidge
*Farmington Orchard (Rd. at 14 Mile)
*Rochester-Hampton Plaza
*Troy-Big Beaver at Rochester Rd.
*Livonia-37367 Six Mile Rd.
*Full Line Auto Center

PERRY AUTO COUPON

4 pk. BATTERIES
78¢
d.c. SIZE

Purolator
OIL FILTERS
FOR MOST CARS.
\$1.99

AUTO BODY UNDERCOATING
97¢
16 oz.

GALVANIZED OIL DRAIN PAN
13 QUART
\$1.49

CLASSIC CAR WAX
with CARBON WASH
\$1.97

VENTILATED AUTO CUSHION
\$2.97

PUNCTURE SEAL
12 oz.
97¢

1979 AUTO REPAIR MANUAL
\$6.97

VALVOLINE TRANSMISSION STOP LEAK
\$1.48

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.



Discover Arctic Lights

—more menthol refreshment than any other low 'tar' cigarette.

Full menthol refreshment. That's what ARCTIC LIGHTS delivers. A very special kind of menthol refreshment you just won't find in any other low 'tar' menthol cigarette.

You see, while the filter holds back 'tar', the

unique new ARCTIC LIGHTS menthol blend comes right through. Result? You get the iciest, brightest taste in menthol smoking—puff after puff. Light up your first ARCTIC LIGHTS.

You just won't believe it's a low 'tar' menthol.

Arctic Lights: Kings & 100's