



Victoria Diaz

Some actors weak in 'Oedipus Rex'

Performances of "Oedipus, the King" by Sophocles, presented by the Schoolcraft College Players, continue with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and play at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 13-14, and play only at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 15, on campus in Livonia. For ticket information, call 591-6400, Ext. 265.

There's good news and not-so-good news about the Schoolcraft College Players current production of Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex."

Most of the not-so-good news has to do with disappointing performances. In the lead role as the tragic Oedipus (who, according to Greek mythology, unwittingly killed his father and subsequently married his mother), Robert Hamblin looks appropriately regal, seems to have worked hard to learn his lines, delivers them clearly and appears comfortable and in control on stage. But there is a peculiar lack of nuance or shading in Hamblin's portrayal.

His anger, for instance, comes off pretty much the same as his terror, and his terror pretty much the same as his frustration or impatience. When there's a strong emotion to display, Hamblin seems to believe that shouting will somehow do the job.

GRANTED, the beleaguered Oedipus meets with enough disaster to bring on some shouting, but if there's no display of genuine feeling behind those shouts, Oedipus begins to seem not heroic but merely blustery.

As Jocasta the queen, Cynthia McEvoy, while not given especially to shouting, is nevertheless prone to a significant amount of overacting. Like Hamblin, she certainly looks regal enough (although she does appear too young to be his mother). She's comfortable enough with her lines, but the delivery of those lines and even her mannerisms onstage are at times considerably exaggerated.

A certain amount of staidness in classic drama is expected, of course, but this is often excessive and serves only to detract from the overall effect of her character.

Dennis Siedlaczek as the priest, and Frank Betzel as a messenger also have their troubles, although they decidedly can't be faulted for overacting. Perhaps striving for subtlety, they've succeeded too well, and at times their performances seem almost somnambulant, their fa-

cial expressions curiously unchanging, their speech patterns wooden and uninspired. John Drouillard fares better as Creon, the brother of Jocasta. In his purple robes, he turns in an effective performance as Oedipus' proud and benevolent regent. James Howland as the blind seer, Tiresias, and Ward Bartlett as the lowly herdsman who brings to Oedipus the ultimate, awful truth do well, also.

IN ADDITION, a five-member chorus deserves praise. Well-drilled by director James Hartman (who is artistic director of theater at Schoolcraft), they work nicely together and look exactly right.

In fact, the way this Oedipus the King looks is probably its strongest point. The unadorned set works, and lighting is effective.

Costuming by Lisa Smith, who is also production stage manager for the play, is first-rate. There's not a hint of that awful threadiness seen in the costumes of so many amateur productions, and the muted colors, interspersed with scarlet and purple, work extremely well here to complement the mood of Sophocles' great tragedy.

Makeup by John Drouillard deserves special mention, also. In the final scene, the blinded Oedipus is a vision you won't soon forget.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based freelance, who specializes in arts and entertainment articles in the metro area.

Performances of the Trinity House Theatre production of "Candle in the Wind" by Alexander Solzhenitsyn continue through March 23 at Trinity House in Livonia. For ticket information, call 464-4302.

By Victoria Diaz
special writer

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's "Candle in the Wind," the current dramatic offering at Trinity House Theatre, is long and wordy and, at the same time, oddly sketchy in places.

That is not to say it is a failure. Actually, one presented by the Trinity House group, it works rather well, helped along considerably by some strong performances and some astute direction by Colleen Hackney, who is careful that it never falters under its own weight.

The rarely performed "Candle in the Wind" deals with some pretty heavy questions: Will rapid advances of modern science extinguish the human spirit? Are higher laws needed to govern scientific endeavor? When the meaning of life is based on personal pleasure and beauty alone, how does one fare? Ultimately, what is important?

To explore these matters, Solzhenitsyn has created a rather motley cast of characters and placed them, in the closing days of the 19th century, near an important scientific research laboratory, where some unusual research is going on. The central character is ex-prisoner Alex

review

Coriel, played by Jeffery Heeden. Impressed for a crime he didn't commit, Coriel considers his years in prison his most fruitful, contending that "suffering is the lever for the growth of the soul."

HEEDEN, WHO seems to possess an inborn naturalness onstage that borders on the artless, is just right as the unpretentious Coriel. He delivers an unflinching performance in a role that is not unchallenging in its complexity but in its length.

In an equally strong performance, Brian Heerink is Coriel's self-absorbed, mercurial friend, Phillip Hagdage. The hearty, mustachioed Heerink is convincing throughout (and as disarming as the devil himself) in the role of the scientist with the warm smile and the cold, cold heart.

In a minor role as Tillie, a kind of breathless Gracie Allen type, Mary Lewis is a delight. Also in a minor comic role, Gary Brda as the exotic Kahimba is a stand-out, as is Mark Barrera in the role of the cartoonish character called the General.

Jim Louise Vassallo as the tragic Aida Craig does a good job, although her crying spells begin to wear a little thin in the second act. A "death scene" near the conclusion of the

play, in which she appears with Daniel Robert Taylor and Diane Manko, is one of the weakest points of the play.

BLAME FOR this mandala episode, which borders on the ludicrous,

is best left with Solzhenitsyn, however, and not with the performers.

Robert Zahara's stark, but imaginative, sets work well, as do costumes by Terri Tower. A special commendation is due Toni-Ruth Shoemaker, makeup director. In the small Trinity House Theatre, subtlety is the greatest virtue.

Victoria Diaz is a Livonia-based freelance, who specializes in arts and entertainment articles in the metro area.

三 MOY'S JAPANESE AND CHINESE Restaurant

NOW SERVING Szechuan And Mandarin Foods

CARRY-OUTS ON CHINESE FOOD

Chinese Lunch 11-3
Chinese Dinner 5-9:30
For Reservations 427-3177

Japanese Lunch 11-2
Japanese Dinner 5-9:30
Pvt. & Bus. 1st Floor
CLOSED MONDAY
2525 Woodward Ave. Livonia

John Edwards TAVERN

LENTEN SPECIAL FRIDAY
Lake Perch \$5.99

Other Daily Specials:
MON. - Chicken Dinner \$4.19
TUES. - Chicken & Rib Dinner \$6.99
WED. - Slab Dinner for One \$8.99
THURS. - Perch Dinner \$3.99
FRI. - Chicken Dinner \$4.19

532-3130
9910 N. Telegraph - Redford

Page's FOOD & SPIRITS

GREAT FOOD • GREAT PRICES
23619 FARMINGTON RD.
Livonia • 477-0000

St. Patrick's Day Special
Corned Beef & Cabbage \$5.95
Dinner

Crab Legs
All You Can Eat
Every Tuesday 5-11 p.m.
Every Saturday 5-9 p.m.

Eddie O's

St. Patrick's Day
March 17th - Irish Boiled Dinner
27169 Grand River
Redford, Michigan
534-5864

Dinners for 2 - Choice of
Prime Rib
Slab of Ribs
Chicken Parmesan
\$11.95
(Includes Soup, Salad, Potato & Dessert)

BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCH 11 to 2
CASUAL DINING 4 to 11 p.m.
HAPPY HOUR 3 to 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Banquet Facilities Closed Sundays

Mama Mia's FAMILY DINING

SORRY NO DISCOUNTS APPLY
DINNER FOR 2
Choice of:
Tenderloin Steak
Broiled Boston Scrod
Vital Parmesan
Homemade Lasagna
All above include soup, tossed salad, bread and butter, fresh baked rolls, potato or pasta

\$11.95
With Coupon Good thru 3-14-87

19385 Beech Daly
Just South of Grand River
REDFORD
637-0740

27770 Plymouth
1 1/2 Miles W. of Inkster Rd
LIVONIA
427-1000

BONE-YARD BAR-B-Q

PHONE IN ORDER
AND HAVE READY
FOR PICK UP
427-6500

DRINK SPECIALS

COUPON SPECIALS
Good Mon. thru Thurs.
Must present coupon. One Coupon Per Coupon

BROASTED CHICKEN \$7.45
FOR 2
SLAB OF RIBS \$10.55
FOR 2
BAR-B-Q CHICKEN \$6.95
FOR 2

Complete with Potato, Cole Slaw and Garlic Bread.
Must present coupon. One Coupon Per Coupon
Coupon expires March 16, 1987

LIVONIA
30643 PLYMOUTH RD.
(Between Warren & Mack)
REDFORD 427-6500
OPEN 7 DAYS 11 A.M.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

Jamie's Jon 7

Ten Year Anniversary
Starts Monday, March 16th thru
Tuesday, March 31st, 1987

Monday thru Thursday 5-9 P.M.
Prime Rib \$5.00
New York Strip \$5.00
Friday and Saturday \$5.95

LUNCHES 11:30-4:00 P.M.
Monday..... 1/4 Lb. Burger with Fries 95¢
Tuesday..... Fashion Show Burger & Fries 95¢
Wednesday..... Ham & Cheese 95¢
Thursday..... All You Can Eat "Pay What You Think It's Worth" 3.25
Friday..... Buffet 3.25
All You Can Eat

Sunday Brunch \$4.25
All You Can Eat Kids under 12 and Seniors \$2.50

29703 W. Seven Mile (across from Livonia Mall)

Monday Nites - No Cover With Dinner
John Trudell & His Big Band
16 piece band
Dancing 8:30 P.M.-1:00 A.M.

St. Patrick's Day Party
Monday March 16th 9:00 P.M. til 1
Also John Trudell & His Big Band
Corned Beef & Cabbage - Green Beer
Featuring Irish Music by Brandon McNulty with the "Sprig of Ireland Band"
Green Carnations for the Ladies

Above Prices Do Not Include Banquets or Private Parties
Livonia 477-9077

CHRISTO'S Family Restaurant

26909 W. EIGHT MILE
Between Beech & Inkster
REDFORD
534-7944

\$3.50 DINNER SPECIALS
4 pm - Close

- Veal Cutlets • Fish
- Spaghetti • Chop Steak
- Liver & Onions
- Chicken • Meatloaf
- Roast Beef

No Discounts with Specials

HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 5:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

MR Z's STEAK HOUSE

RESTAURANT • COCKTAILS • ENTERTAINMENT
Formerly Beaubien's Lounge
27331 W. 5 Mile at Inkster Rd. • 537-5600

GET YOUR IRISH UP!!!
Come Celebrate
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
WITH US! TUES.-MARCH 17
THE PARTY STARTS AT 12 NOON TILL CLOSING
WITH MUSIC, DANCING & FINE FOOD. FEATURING:
IRISH STEW & CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE FOR
ONLY \$4.95

DAILY LUNCHEON SPECIALS
MONDAY COCKTAIL HOUR 3 P.M. TILL 8 P.M.
TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY 3 P.M. TILL 6 P.M.
SATURDAY 1 P.M. TILL 6 P.M. (REDUCED PRICES)
LIVE MUSIC & DANCING WED. THRU SAT.
The Sounds of "LOST & FOUND"

the all new REDFORD River House

CASUAL DINING • COCKTAILS

FEATURING AN ALL NEW MENU
AT PRICES YOU'LL LOVE!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIALS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14th ONLY
You and your guest are cordially invited to enjoy one complimentary DINNER with payment for same of equal or greater value. OR, Alternative Offer: 50% off one DINNER. ONE COUPON PER OFFER, NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS.
SAT. HOURS 5 P.M.-10 P.M. DINNER

HAPPY HOUR
2 P.M.-6 P.M.
IN LOUNGE ONLY
\$1.25 WELL DRINKS (SINGLE SHOT)
\$1.00 DRAFT BEER FREE SNACKS

DANCING EVERY NIGHT OF THE WEEK
25241 GRAND RIVER
AT 7 MILE - S.W. CORNER OF TELEGRAPH
REDFORD TOWNSHIP
PHONE: 592-4646
BANQUET FACILITIES FOR 10 TO 120

Buddy's PIZZA

IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD A BUDDY'S PIZZA, YOU HAVEN'T HAD PIZZA YET!

\$2.00 Off

ANY LARGE PIZZA OR LARGE ANTIPASTO LARGE GREEK SALAD WHEN YOU PRESENT THIS COUPON UPON ORDERING

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY WITH US!
• SOFTBALL TEAMS DISCOUNT COUPON AVAILABLE
• BOWLING & BASKETBALL TEAMS ACCOMMODATED
• TAKE HOME 1/2-BAKED PIZZA CARRY-OUT FARMINGTON 11844 Farmington (at 11 Mile) 427-4600
LIVONIA 3262 Plymouth Road (West of Inkster) 427-1000
OPEN 7 DAYS 11 A.M.

NOT GOOD WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS

Coupon Expires March 16, 1987

VOTED BY: CHANNEL 2 DETROIT NEWS FREE PRESS #1