Tabletop triumph

Scoundrels to frolic in ‘Alchemist’

By STEPHEN THORPE

Thresher Fine Arts Writer

Following hard upon this week’s production of “Tiny Alice” by the Players, Wiess Tabletop Theatre presents an evening of low comedy and bawdy belly-laugh with Ben Jonson’s “The Alchemist.”

It is normal for one to ask “what the play is about,” but “The Alchemist” plot defies explanation, simply because it is perhaps one of the most involved situation comedies ever written.

Directed by Fred Roberts, the cast includes Rob Sheldon as Face, a pimp acting as leg-man for Roger S. Glade as Subtle, a quack alchemist, and Sandy Coyner, as Doll Common the whore. It’s a venture tri-partite as the trio manages to con the world.

Also featured as chief sucker to the nefarious trio is Virgil Phelps as Sir Epicure Mammon, the knight who buys “the philosophers’ stone” in order to “fornicate gold.”

Others in the cast include Steven Russ, Bobby Dawson, Mike Freeman, Tom Bible, Nancy Vickrey, Tom Davis, and Jim Whisinat.

It may be obscene, but it’s all in fun. For those who doubt this fact, let them remember that Coleridge once remarked that the plot of “The Alchemist” is one of the three finest in all literature—ranking with “Oedipus Rex” and “Tom Jones.”

Tickets may be had from the Wiess College office (ext. 366) for the Friday through Sunday run (March 10-12). If you attended “Dr. Faustus,” Wiess’ earlier production, you may remember how limited the seating is and Director Roberts has made it clear that an extended run like that of “Faustus” is impossible.