SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

‘Godot’ still waiting

BY STEVE THORPE

Theater Amusements Editor

Lawson Taitte’s Baker Theatre-in-the-round produced Samuel Beckett’s “Waiting For Godot” Saturday night.

At the outset it must be said that the play itself has never been a favorite of mine, and certainly not the best thing Beckett has produced. Perhaps its major fault can be said to lie in an over-sophisticated statement of a basically simple existentialist theme—and this, more than anything else, hindered the Taitte production.

Exhibit Limitation

Dealing with the production, however, and for the moment disregarding the subject matter, Taitte and his cast must be congratulated for a generally sound performance. Dennis Kear as Pozzo was given a hard run for the top honors by Bob Lowenstein’s surprisingly good Estragon and the exchanges between the two represented the glittering high points of the production.

Unfortunately, the play also hinged on the character of Vladamir (John Harris), and as a result the performance seemed to exhibit more imitative form than anything else.

Harris was hindered by his role, to begin with, and by his director’s natural propensity for subtly, but even so, it was inescapably clear at points that he was as unsure of his lines as he was of his character and the end result was not the impression of boredom, the essence of waiting, that Beckett strives for, but rather more actual boredom and futile waiting on the part of the audience.

Good Theater

The net results of this faculty character was a slowness in pacing which, had Pozzo not entered, would have made the first act unbearable. The second act, on the other hand, picked up markedly, proving once again that good theater can be produced in the colleges.

From the technical aspect, Taitte and his crew deserve well-earned congratulations, for while one might quarrel with the pacing, none could quibble with technique in “Waiting for Godot.” In tackling a show like this, Taitte had taken on a definite challenge for arena staging and had done as well as his play and his actors would permit.

“If only—” seems like a hollow phrase in any case, but here it seems unavoidable, for had Harris shown a bit of the energy we have seen him display, if he had enjoyed his role as much as some of the others he’d portrayed, “Godot” could easily have been the best thing seen on campus this year.

As it was, this lack of confidence and slow pacing was still not enough to hide the basic theatrical soundness that good direction and excellence from other sources provided for “Waiting For Godot.”

All candidates for office in the April 5 General Election must turn in expense accounts and petitions to a member of the Election Committee. Expense accounts are due by 12:50 pm the last school day preceding the election.

Petitions are due on March 20. They must be accompanied by a 50c filing fee. Campaigning may begin on March 29.