SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

An excellent morality

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With its presentation of John Redford’s play ‘Wyt and Science’ last night, directed by Dr. John Velz, Brown College again showed that it is concerned with moral problems relevant to Rice students.

The play written in 1520, is the tale of Wyt’s quest for the Lady Science. To win her, he must reach Mons Parnassus, but his way is hard, for he forsakes his guides Study, Dylygence, and Instruction. Though hindered by Idleness and Tediousness he finally is worthy of the sweet joys of Science.

Mr. Redford might have written the play with Rice in mind. Like all morality plays ‘Wyt and Science’ assumes a value which if the play is to be relevant must be one held by the audience could view the play as something more than a museum piece.

Wyt Well Disciplined

As Wyt the main burden to the play fell on Jim Radford, and he carried it well. His persona had a consistent earnestness befitting one in quest of Science.

Jeanne Jarvis played the part of Science with an appropriately lofty inapproachability. Her part was not an awfully sympathetic one, and she did not descend too far to the human to make it so. Michele Stogan played her mother Experience with an equally impressive grandeur.

Ignorance Praised

Ken Narahara was Reason itself, his syllables weighty and measured. Eric Luedders as the giant Tediousness swung a mean club. Kathleen Davis as Confidence was delightful, especially her nicely controlled chargrin at finding no Wyt in the audience.

Dianne Dodson as Honest Recreation did an excellent portrayal of a complacent and weak-minded wench. Carl Daw as Ignorance avoided the temptation of trying to play a Shakespearean fool and was content to play a stupid one, which he did as well as anyone could want. The scene in which Ignorance makes Wyt a fool was good low comedy.

Idleness Appealing

Sarah Campbell as Idleness was a highly appealing slut, and the adroitness with which she drew various objects from her well-filled blouse was not unappreciated by the audience.

The minor characters, who formed a chorus, played and sang well. The recorders and guitar accompanying them added a touch of authenticity.

The costumes, almost all of which were made by Michele Stojan, were lavish and eye-catching.

Play Divided Well

The most noticeable thing about the production was the fond respect the cast seemed to have for the play. The actors seemed to play not for themselves or for the audience, but for the play itself.

The production was well cast, well paced, well blocked, and well rehearsed by John Velz, an English professor with a knowledge of as well as an obvious delight in mendieval stage.