SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

Stanley with some April rain

By STEVE THORPE
Ah! Spring is in the air! Isn't it all wonderful? The flowers are florishing, the buds are budding, the birds are birding—and lo! The bees are being! Ah! As we said before, Spring!

Now, every year poets, professors, and other knowledgable sorts search out that symptom, that shred of evidence which truly marks the season of re-birth—that essence of spring. Happily we are proud to report it has been found!

Yes. Spring is that heavenly time of year when that movie which can win awards all over the world and which you heard about over the academy awards show and which has been showing for weeks in Podunk, Mississippi, finally gets to Houston.

Isn't nature grand? Don't you feel honored to live in such a cultural Mecca.

Here At Last
No, the show I'm talking about is not "Zorba the Greek." (They are waiting until 1970 to release that one in Houston, I suppose). No — "Seance on a Wet Afternoon" has finally brought what is perhaps the finest acting job given by an actress in the past ten years to Houston.

Currently showing at the Delman (as part of a horrible double feature with "Lillies of the Field"), "Seance" represents a triumph for Kim Stanley, and, consequently, ranks as a very good movie on the whole.

The plot is fascinating in itself. A demoted "Medium" (Kim Stanley) and her weak-willed husband (Richard Attenborough) decide to kidnap a child and then magically reveal where the child can be found, thus enhancing the Medium's reputation.

Praise For Stanley
The complicated twists and turns of this plan make for some magnificently exciting scenes in London subways and back alleys and such — and all this is enhanced by what can only be termed excellent film making.

But, as I said before, the triumph is all Kim Stanley's. Every movement, every breath, every word of her performance was perfectly timed and executed. This was more than emotion in her portrayal; for a rare instance on screen, there was true life.

Cast Medicare
As for the rest of the cast—well, Attenborough was adequate, and his makeup job (especially his completely false nose). The man and woman who played the parents of the kidnapped child were good in certain fleeting moments, but were, for the most part, "bumping-leg" miscasts and horribly affected.

The child was child-like, which is something of a marvel in itself, but she had very little to do, so you ended up wanting to see more of her.

On the whole, then, the supporting cast was definitely mediocre. But Stanley makes the show worthwhile and the technical aspects are brilliant. It finally got here. Go quickly, before it leaves. Thank God at least there's spring — even in Houston.

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Just a note in passing—Congratulations German Drama Club! This reviewer didn't understand a word of your production, "Scherz, Satire, Ironie und Tiefere Bedeutung," but theatrical excellence, true showmanship, and bundles of fun came out "uber alles." Special laurels to Dr. Brockmann, the director, and to Mr. Milburn, the musical arranger and lyric writer as well as the whole cast for an admirable job.

Good luck to cast and crew in your performance at UT in Austin Saturday. We hope to see more of you.

Spirited Music
Close to the "Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta" as the highlight of the evening was the accomplished Houston violinist, Fredell Lack's performance of the Vivaldi Concerti "Spring" and "Summer" from "The Seasons."

Miss Lack's technique and tone were, as always, excellent. But, in addition, her performance infused the program with a spirit and excitement which brought out the reasons why they are favorites of the chamber repertoire.

Also very enjoyable was the Mozart Symphony No. 36, the "Linza." Again the performance, under Mr. Rosekrans, brought an excitement to the music which should belie the dull reputation of chamber music.

Free Concerts
The Houston Chamber Orchestra Society is a subscription concert series, but in return for the use of Hamman Hall, which is, incidentally, a excellent auditorium for chamber music, the society is happy to admit Rice students and faculty without charge.