Captivating 'Annie' Receives Praise

By BILL DELANEY
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The Elizabeth Baldwin Literary Society can be justly proud of its entertaining presentations of "Annie Get Your Gun" last weekend.

And it should be especially proud of Barbara Long, who this observer never doubted was the fascinating reincarnation of the lovable gun-totin’ gal, and Director Joanne Seale, who again showed Rice students that a production does not have to be crude to be thoroughly enjoyable.

Captivating Annie

Chuckling and pining her plight through the show's well-known tunes, the perfectly-cast role of Annie totally captivated the audience as she exchanged her gun for her man, sharpshooter Frank Butler, ably portrayed by Jack Hollon.

Bob Moody and Deanna Day also performed well in rather difficult supporting roles as members of the Buffalo Bill troupe.

Good Minor Roles

Believable acting in several minor roles—Linda Day as Ma Wilson, Pat Jones as Butler's socialite girlfriend, Alex Greenwood as Chief Sitting Bull, and Bob Miller, Maxine Barnes, Evelyn Thomas and Betsy Miller as Annie's little brother and sisters—greatly added to the main leads' presentations of what could easily have been a long and trite production.

The EB's chorus provided quite adequate backing, often adding and very seldom detracting from the efforts of the cast.

Music, Costumes, Sets

The musical backing, well arranged by Jay Butler and John Fowler, was also well performed—although the saxophone seemed out of place in a couple of numbers—by the arrangers and Jim Orchard and Tom Graham.

Judy Ley's costuming and Linda Day's sets also added to the success of the production, as did the work of others backstage under the direction of Darden Lloyd. Tom McKeown handled the lighting, while Flo Fisher was in charge of properties.

Broadway Tradition

Carol Nixon was business manager. Co-ordinator of the production was Evelyn Thomas.

With "Annie," "The Girl Friend," and other EB successes of recent years, it seems that fine Broadway productions are becoming a tradition at Rice, and for these noble efforts the EBs should be commended.