

Theatre productions 'needed more polish'

By Jeff Kayser

One day Elaine May thought, "Life is just a game show." Several sheets of paper later, she converted that idea into a one-act comedy entitled "Adaptation."

Phil Benson, played by Gary Ambler, searched fruitlessly for his "Security Square" on the board of life. Benson met crisis after crisis, adapted and marched on to his inevitable coronary. The climax was his sudden insight, "This is a hard game!"

THE PRODUCTION was funny, but not funny enough. When a script offers nothing but laughter, the quiet moments get very long.

John Keough's costumes and Jim Dias' lack of one, aided the production that needed more polish to really get off the ground.

The play was the first of two one-acts directed by E. Glendon Gabbard for Eastern's

Homecoming. The second, "Lovers," had more substance, but took too long to deliver what it had to offer.

LIBBY Johnson played a vibrant, doubly-alive Mag, while Henry Balfanz, as Joe, needed to find and express the depth of his character.

Each movement of the play exhausted what the actors had to offer before the mood

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changed. Mag's feigned crying was at first beautiful, but then stretched out, until it, too, almost failed.

As it stood, the production would have benefited from considerable cutting.

Bill Bielby designed two excellent sets for the productions. The set for "Lovers" was starkly simple, composed of odd-shaped raked platforms. I've seen many sets of this type at Eastern, but this is the first one that was truly pleasing to the eye and offered more to the production than simply an acting area.

Play ticket sales now

This year's Homecoming Theatre Arts presentation will be two short comedies, "Lovers" and "Adaptations," directed by Glendon Gabbard, department head.

The one act plays, written by Brian Fiel and Elaine May, will be presented Oct. 6-10, 8 p.m. and Oct. 8 at a 2 p.m. matinee. Opening night is Friday.

Ticket reservations are available at the Fine Arts Center box office, or by calling 581-3110 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Tickets are also available at the door one hour before each performance. Admission is 50 cents for Eastern students, adults \$1.50 and children 75 cents.

Homecoming plays planned

Two one-act plays, "Lovers" by Brian Friel and "Adaptation" by Elaine May, will be offered as the 1972 Homecoming Plays, opening Friday, October 6, at the Fine Arts Theater.

The two one-acts will play at 8 p.m. October 6 through October 9, with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday, October 8. Ticket prices are 50 cents for students, 75 cents for children, and \$1.50 for adults. The box office, located at the Seventh Street entrance of the Fine Arts Center, will be open noon to 5 p.m. daily starting October 2, 1972.

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