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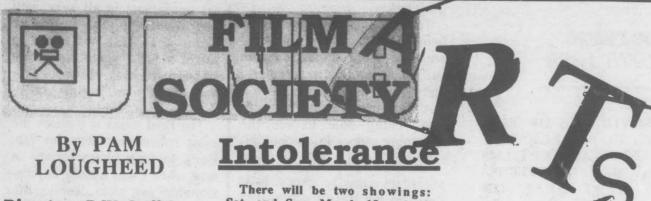
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Director: D.W. Griffith United States, 1916

It is generally acknowledged down to three hours (the length now that David Wark Griffith's of the print which now films are responsible for originating many of the stylistic devices that we now consider commonplace in 'Hollywood' movies. His use of close-ups, panning, ceiling shots, "eye-opener" focuses, and other techniques was unheard of in 1915-16, when Intolerance was made. The technical creativity of this film, then, is one of the reasons why Griffith is remembered as a great director and why his films are of historical significance.

However, even in the 1980s, the scope of Intolerance remains unmatched in other films. In its original version, the film may have been some four hours one hand, each story dramatizes long. But when audiences

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of the print which now circulates); at one point, he even pieced together parts of the original and released them as two separate movies - The Mother and the Law and The Fall of Babylon. The print now circulating tells four different stories connected by their similar concern with representing intolerance, narrow-mindedness, and tyranny as these attitudes manifest themselves in various situations and societies. The stories cut across time, their settings ranging from ancient Babylon, Judea at the time of Jesus, France in 1572, and contemporary America. On the the larger scene of cultural and criticized it for its wearying social conflicts in each time length, Griffith cut the film period; on the other hand, each

story also focuses on some one individual's role in the con-

flict. Overall, the film is epic This epic scope is the one quality of the film which is not mirrored in most Hollywood films produced today. Modern Hollywood has opted to tell the stories of individuals, not whole societies. The aesthetic reasons for focussing on the individual are bound up with political and social ones: Hollywood serves to reproduce not simply represent and certainly not to critique - American ideology. Ideology is reproduced in individual people; to focus on the larger scene involves more intellectual activity than movie-goers or movie-makers seem to want. D.W. Griffith's Intolerance is interesting to watch precisely because it demands more of an audience than other films.

### The Caucasian Chalk Circle

preview by

Kwame Dawes

The CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE thrives on the device of the short fable or parable. While fables constitue the structure of the piece, Brecht's penchant for ironic and thought provoking political commentary complicates the nature of the tale such that we are forced to question our own ideological and moral values.

The play as staged by the Workshop Production unit of the English Department is a shorter version of the original piece but works just as effectively in narrating an involvbed story which entails over thirty different characters ranging form the bloated corruption and stupidity of the caricatured aristocracy to the sometimes maudlin purity of the working class heroes and heroines. While melodrama is central to the style of the play, it very often fails to maintain the classic

melodramatic mode by including riotously hilarious episodes and by complicating the "goodnes" of some of the central characters. Azdak, the bearer of justice in the play is in fact an unsavory and greedy rogue who does not actually repent of his ways. However he is the product of the misrule of the true villains in the work; the aristocracy and they fall ironic victims of his monstrosity.

The play is a colourful work cleverly staged on a set that makes full use of the Memorial Hall stage. Bodies are used to form compelling stage pictures which serve as evocative backdrops to the often intensely and sensitively portrayed momemnts on stage. I saw the piece during the dress rehearsal stages and much is left to be done for the opening show, despite this the actors made up for any of the inevitable bloopers on stage with energy and zeal.

The play continues tonight and over this weekend at the Memorial Hall on campus. The show starts at 8.00 pm.

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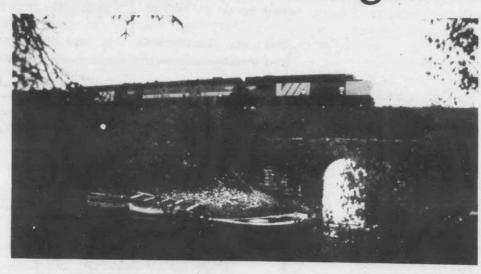
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