

**Miller's Creation in Stong**

**Farcical first act dissolves into melodrama**

By J.W. BELTRAME

In the beginning there was God, Adam, and the animals. And all was good.

One day, as Adam and God were taking time off from naming the things in the world, it was discovered that Adam had no playmate. Hence God created woman from Adam's

spare rib, and then things started to go wrong.

Arthur Miller's *The Creation of the World and Other Business*, which opened Friday at Stong, uses this cliché premise to write a play that is at first wildly funny, then a serious treatise on the condition of man. Miller would have been better off leaving it as a farce.

God is depicted as a lonely and proud artist, who is constantly seeking praise for his work, while Lucifer is a selfish drama critic in hippie dress (Lucifer criticizes God's furry fish, who could not swim and hence drowned in the seas).

The innocent Adam and Eve are a constant disappointment to God because they do not know how to give Him a grandson. When Adam has the inclination, he doesn't know where to put it.

The rest follows the script of Genesis faithfully, and Miller rehashes the conventional symbolic interpreta-

tion of the fall of man. The first act ends by promising more of the same humorous twist on the myth of creation, with God's expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden, and His telling Lucifer to go to hell.

Unfortunately Miller was dissatisfied with the course of the play and decided to turn serious on us. The result is two full acts of boredom and melodrama, with only a scattering of humour.

Jack Zimmerman hands in the best performance as God, and honourable mentions go to John Hughes and Dasenka as the nude children of

Paradise. However, Matthew Ahern is badly miscast as the evil Lucifer. His monotone performance underplays the complex and wildly satirical character of Satan on which the play is largely dependent.

Taped sound effects of windstorms which sound like static, and strobe lighting during Lucifer's dance with Eve give the production a stiff school-production look. With a few of these mistakes eliminated, *Creation* might be worth the \$2.50 admission charge.

It will play at Stong this Friday and Saturday evenings only, at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.

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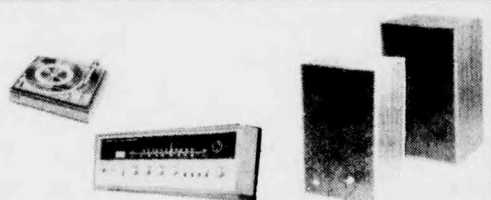
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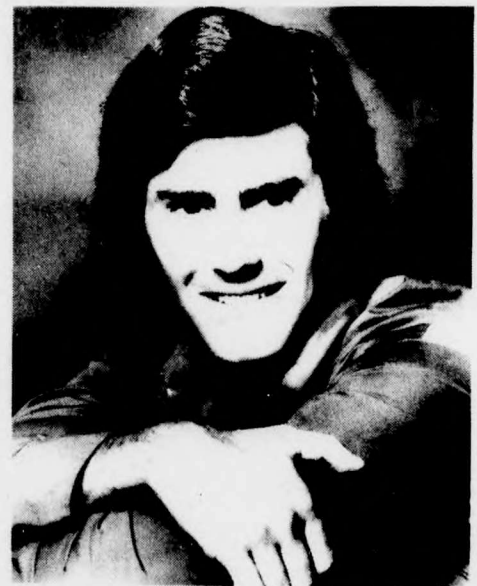
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