

# Lady from the Sea lacks force

**Lady from the Sea**  
Northern Light Theatre at the Kaasa  
through March 5

review by Elaine Ostry

Thanks to a much-needed Reading Week break, I'm writing this review a week after seeing the show: *Lady from the Sea* by Henrik Ibsen, produced by Northern Light Theatre.

Well, looking back, only three performances stood out in my mind as memorable and interesting. Jill Dyck as Ellida, Larry Yachimec as Arnholm and Maureen Rooney as Hilde gave solid performances, but as a whole the play faltered.

Ellida is the "lady from the sea," tormented by memories of an old lover, a seaman who disappeared years ago. He's called "The Stranger." They "wedded" themselves to the sea and each other, bonds Ellida still feels. Her husband, Dr. Wangel (Earl Klein) is a decent man, not very exciting, who is worried about his strangely distracted wife. The bond of conventional, 19th century marriage keeps the Wangels together.

This dramatic situation intensifies when the Stranger reappears, with a melodramatic, sensual hiss: "Ellida, you belong to me." Ellida must choose whether to leave with the mysterious Stranger, or stay with her legal, loyal husband. Which bond will hold her?

The play examines the question of free will and feminism of the nineteenth century. Ellida accuses Wangel of "buying" her in marriage: how else could a young woman of the time, suddenly left alone, survive? The call of the Stranger addresses her need to feel free.

While Ellida is busy making her choice (she has about a day to decide), her stepdaughters, Bolette (Cathy Derkach) and Hilde, frolic about in their own misery. Arnholm and Lyngstrand (Jeff Haslam) join them: the romantic subplot that follows underlines the themes introduced by Ellida and Wangel.

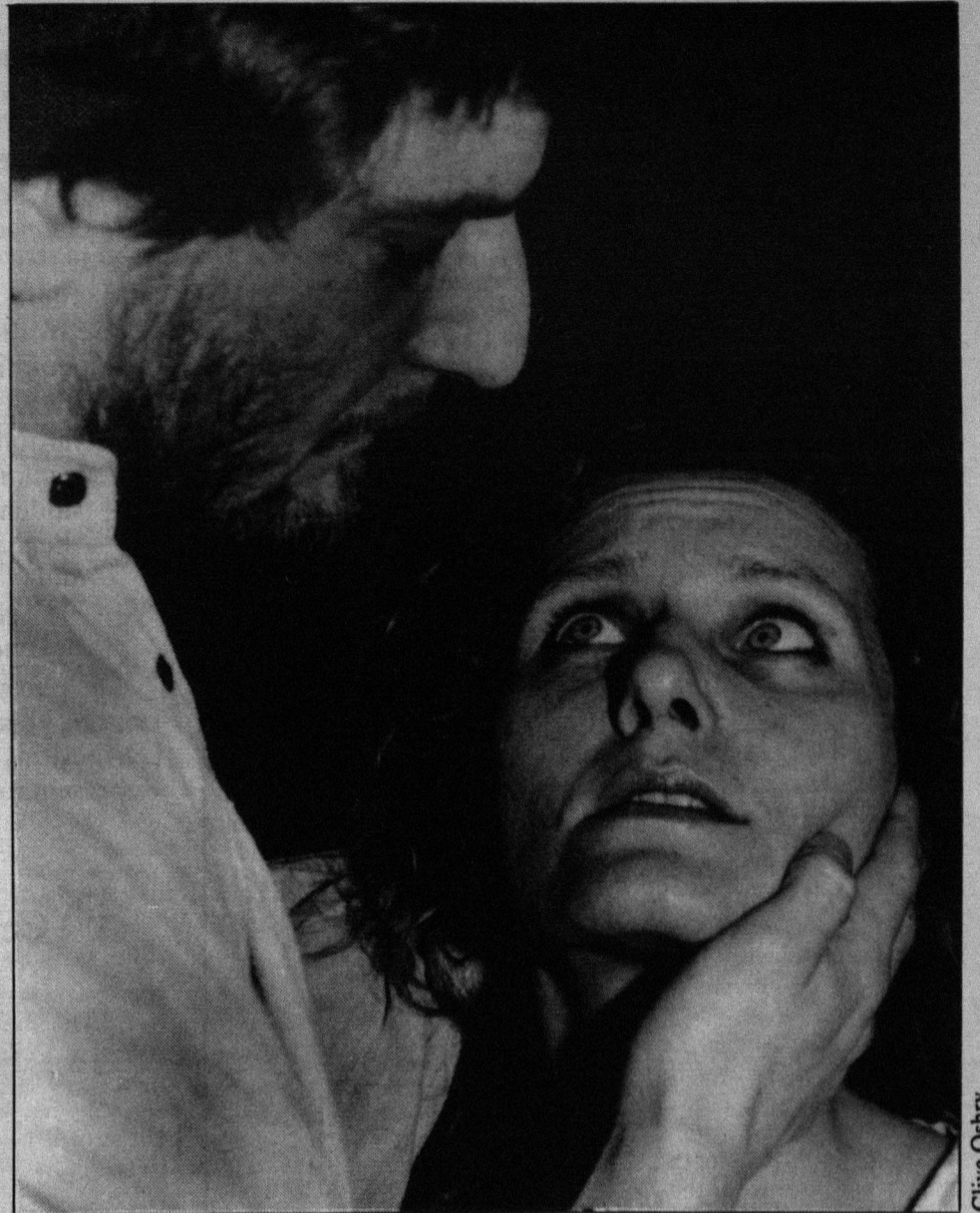
The actors do not have enough tension among them to instill the play with the necessary suspense. Jilly Dyck plays Ellida with grace and intensity, but she is poorly matched by Earl Klein as Dr. Wangel. Klein is too passionless, even for a decent, small-town doctor. His frustration seems shallow; his love for Ellida is also unconvincing. With this Dr. Wangel, it's hard to believe in the difficulty of Ellida's choice.

There is much more chemistry between Bolette and Arnholm, her old tutor Yachimec effectively brings the secret frustrations of the middle-aged professor to life. He would have made a wonderful Dr. Wangel.

The third bright light in the production is Maureen Rooney as Hilde. She is the youngest of the two daughters, and is not involved in any romantic subplot. She is the brutally honest one, covering up the hurt she feels at Ellida's neglect with rude bravado. Rooney plays this brat with flair.

What these three actors have in common is the ability to project passion and frustration. They don't have to even speak; you can see their pain in their faces and movements.

These performances are worth seeing, even if they are weighed down by the rest of the cast, which seems to wander around the stage, lost, somehow successful in not



Clive Oshry

Yves Mercier as The Stranger and Jill Dyck in Northern Light Theatre's production of Ibsen's *Lady from the Sea*: The play is saved by a few strong acting performances.

tripping over the miles of parachute silk on the floor. *Lady from the Sea* is somewhat heavy LADY — p 13

## R.A.T.T.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
★	★	★	★	★	★	★
★	★	★	★	★	★	★
5 DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM  THE RATT STAFF AND YOUR STUDENTS' UNION	6 MARGARITA	7 TUESDAY IS MOVIE NIGHT DEVITO DOUBLEHEADER 7:30 TIN MEN 10:00 THROW MAMMA FROM THE TRAIN	8 LADIES	9 LET THE GOOD TIMES ROCK	10 ELECTIC	11 MUSIC
12 WISH YOU THE BEST OF TIMES ALL THE TIME	13 MONDAY	14 CLASSIC HORROR ABOUNDS 7:30 FRANKENSTEIN 10:00 THE FLY	15 NITE	16 GREAT BAR STAFF	17 '60's & '70's CLASSIC ROCK N' ROLL	18 NITE
19 WISH YOU THE BEST OF TIMES ALL THE TIME	20 PEACH RASPBERRY STRAWBERRY BLUEBERRY BLACKBERRY	21 HITCHCOCK LIVES! 7:30 VERTIGO 10:00 PSYCHO	22 LADIES RECEIVE HAPPY HOUR PRICES	23 5 DAILY BEER & DRINK SPECIALS GREAT TIME	24 CLASSIC R & B	25 CO-SPONSOR CJSR FM 88.5 LIVE MUSIC WHEN AVAILABLE
26 ENJOY YOUR SCHOOLING!	27 ON SPECIAL ALL DAY BY THE GLASS OR BY THE PITCHER	28 MONTY MADNESS! 7:30 AND NOW FOR SOMETHING... 10:00 MONTY PYTHON & THE HOLY GRAIL	ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT	24 GOOD PEOPLE	24 ROLL	25 SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE RADIO

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