



photo Angela Wheelock

Good Doctor, bad tooth, and saintly priest.

Students act up

Studio Theatre kicks off its 1983-84 season tonight with Neil Simon's wise, tender, and rib-tickling bittersweet comedy, *The Good Doctor*.

This Chekovian mosaic opens what promises to be yet another exciting and fun-filled year of student-produced theatre at Corbett Hall.

Thieve's Carnival by Jean Anouilh runs December 1-10, *The Taming of the Shrew* by William Shakespeare plays March 24 - April 7, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams rounds out the season running May 10 - 19.

Subscriptions to Studio Theatre's stage '84 Season are \$20.00 - a paltry sum considering subscribers receive two tickets per play, which works out to the incredible price of \$2.50 per ticket. Non-subscribers pay \$4.00 a show, still a bargain at twice the price.

Tickets are available from Studio Theater Box Office, Department of Drama, Room 3-146, Fine Arts Center. Tickets can also be purchased at the door; for further information, or to reserve tickets, phone 432-2495.

Tapestry of suffering is hard to watch

Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence
Capilano, Plaza 1, Rialto 1

review by Brenda Waddle

What a depressing movie.

That is not to say it is a bad movie, or even a mediocre one. In fact, it is wonderfully directed, acted and produced. It's just horribly depressing.

David Bowie proves again to all the world he can act. His role as Strafer Jack Celliers, a British POW in a Japanese camp in Java in 1942, is multi-dimensional and vivid, particularly the mad scenes.

I never did figure out if the character's madness was real or feigned, but when Bowie started acting insane it was spellbinding. Celliers is haunted by guilt over how he treated his handicapped younger brother, and his painful childhood reminiscences touched a responsive chord in "the Big Sister" in me.

Another gripping performance was turned in by Bill Conti, who played the "Mr. Lawrence" of the title. Conti played the POW second in command, who, despite the heinous treatment he received at the hands of his captors, claims he never wants to hate an individual Japanese.

The POW commander was played by Jack Thompson, and he is a stereotypical British Major straight out of *HMS Pinafore*.

Japanese rock star Ryuichi Sakamoto played the Japanese commander Yonoi, a man who refuses to acknowledge his homosexual desire for Celliers.

The interaction between Sakamoto and Bowie on stage was intense, rife with innuendo and hidden meaning.

Japanese actor Takeshi played one of the more pitiful characters in the movie, Hara. Hara is basically a humane man driven by the nature of war to do inhumane things. His attitude towards captivity illustrated the enormous differences between the Japanese and British cultures, particularly with regards to sex, warfare and death.

Even the stage design and music pointed out the polarity between cultures. The rooms inhabited by the Japanese were wonders of simplicity and beauty, while the barracks inhabited by the prisoners were cluttered and filthy. The music was a bizarre mix of Oriental and Western influences. The chorus of "Rock of Ages" sung by the captives was beautiful and moving but misunderstood by the Japanese soldiers.

Now on to why this is a depressing movie. It deals with a very dark period in human history very graphically. Unless you have a strong stomach for people committing harikari, or being severely beaten, kicked and literally starved to death right before your very eyes, it is a difficult movie to sit through; the pain and suffering is unrelieved until the credits.

"Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence" certainly deserves the praise it is currently receiving. It is not, however, a movie to take in on a carefree Friday night with a date. It is a movie to be tolerated as a learning experience.

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Nothing human loves forever.

the Hunger

8:00 pm - *The Hunger* - 1983 USA, 97 min. Dir: Tony Scott. Cast: Catherine Deneuve, David Bowie, and Susan Sarandon. R.

fri/sat 21/22

Frank Galvin has one last chance to do something right.



THE VERDICT

8:00 pm - *The Verdict* - 1983 USA, 128 min. Dir: Sidney Lumet. Cast: Paul Newman, Charlotte Rampling, Jack Warden, James Mason and Milo O'Shea. R.

CINEMA ADMISSION: Regular admission: \$3.50/\$2.50 SU members with ID. SUB Theatre is located on the 2nd floor of the Students' Union Building. For more information call 432-4764.