

Entertainment

The loves of Lulu

Tarragon play is a study of nymphomania

By BELINDA SILBERMAN

Lulu can't keep track of her lovers — or her husbands. No sooner is one spouse dead, then she is caught kissing a potential new one.

Lulu is one of the most absurd comedies to have emerged in all of theatre history. Originally written in the early 1890's by German playwright, Frank Wedekind, the play was grossly censored. And no wonder. Even so-called 'modern' audiences of today, may be surprised as to what occurs on the stage of Lulu.

The play is about eros: Lulu, described as a woman with a great

capacity for giving and receiving love, first appears on stage supporting a pot-bellied, dirty-old-man, who happens to be her husband. Before long, Goll (as he is called) dies of a heart attack, having caught Lulu fooling around with a photographer, Schwarz (David Bolt).

Seated on the stomach of the dead Goll, Lulu listens to Schwarz's professions of love for her, and thus enters into another marriage. Schwarz soon commits suicide, when he discovers that Lulu was not a virgin when he married her.

When Schwarz is asked by another character, Dr. Schon

(David Clement) how he could have thought Lulu to be a virgin when she had already been married once to Goll, Schwarz relates that Lulu had told him that she had been 'pure' and of course he had believed her.

The doctor is next on Lulu's list of marginally unsuccessful marriages, and after him she decides to attempt bachelorhood for awhile with a lover named Alva (Gary Schwarz).

The characters in Lulu were anything but ordinary. For example, there was Lulu's father (played by E.M. Margolese) who had a tendency to forget that he was a guardian and not another possible lover.

The best performance was indisputably given by Zoe Alexander. With a bush of flaming red hair and eye brows that said more than her lines, her portrayal of Lulu is totally unforgettable! Deep into her part in every way, Zoe Alexander lacked one thing. Blood.

In one scene, a character clearly 'wounds' Lulu with his knife in full view of the audience, but, no blood emerges from the 'cut'. To top this off, the criminal has the audacity to wipe off the unstained knife in a bucket of water, which is on the stage.

The strange thing about this, is that while this sequence is left up to the audience's imagination, other scenes, such as cruel fights and explicit moments of love, are not.

The set is distracting to say the least. There are more doors than walls. So many in fact, that the actors themselves may well have lost track as to who exited and where.

In one vignette, Alva, who has been murdered, is dragged offstage through one of the doors. A few



David Bolt (Schwarz), Zoe Alexander (Lulu), and George Merner (Goll, on floor), in Frank Wedekind's Lulu.

minutes later, one of the characters opens the same door and seeing the dead Alva, goes into a fluster. A short while after this, Lulu and a lover open the same door, go inside, close it, and come out afterwards without having seen the dead body of Alva lying around.

Towards the end of the play, Lulu becomes so poor that she has to resort to prostitution. One of her clients, who played a very small part, has to be mentioned. Kurt Freund appears as an old professor who hasn't the slightest notion of what sex is. His portrayal of the

sweet old man soon to be married, is outrageously funny.

The most disappointing performance was given by Sarah Albertson who played a lesbian who was in love with Lulu. Albertson, besides not having the slightest understanding of homosexuality, was also the only performer to not have developed her character at all.

On the whole however, Lulu is an impressive production, and the Tarragon Theatre has certainly put much of work into making it extremely entertaining.

Cheap Shots Second City: raunchy fun

Meet Daryl Sittler: Well, not quite, it's really John Candy playing the famous Leaf in The Wizard of Ossington, the latest show of the Second City. It takes pot shots at truck driving, nationalism, immigration, sexism, Quebec, and Freud. Clean humour it isn't, but the audience still cracks up. Try to make reservations ahead of time at the Old Firehall, 373-1674, because it's often crowded. There are student prices for weekdays...



Stong Free Films: Tonight at 7:30 in the JCR, "A Time Out of War" and "Beau Geste", from the War Film Series, and Monday at 4 in room 112, the Literature into Film Series presents "The Great Gatsby" (1949)...

IDA Know: Next Week at the IDA Gallery, an exhibition of contemporary Chinese art by four York students...

Nikos Who?: At the St. Lawrence Centre Saturday at 8:30, Guset composer Nikos Mamangakis presents a world premiere of his composition, "Magodia", as part of a new Music concert...

McCoy and Friends: Joining Mr. Tyner at his concert tonight at 8:30 in Burton is his sextet of Charles Fanbrough (bass fiddle), Eric Gravatt (drums), Guilherme Franco (percussion), James Ford and Ronald Bridgewater (reeds)...

E.L.

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1. HEBREW LANGUAGE - ALPEH - Beginners

DAY: Mon. Beginning Jan. 17
TIME: 2 p.m.
LOCATION: S169 Ross

2. HEBREW LANGUAGE - BEIT - Intermediate

DAY: Mon. Beginning Jan. 17
TIME: 3 p.m.
LOCATION: S169 Ross

3. YIDDISH LANGUAGE

DAY: Mon. Beginning Jan. 17
TOME: 2 p.m.
LOCATION: S133 Ross

4. ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

DAY: Sun. Beginning Jan. 16
TIME: 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Vanier College 202

5. HEBREW AND ISRAELI SINGING SESSION

DAY: Mon. Beginning Jan. 17
TIME: 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: S101 Ross

6. CALLIGRAPHY

DAY: Wed. Beginning Jan. 19
TIME: 8:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Room 212
Beth Tzedek
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CLASSES ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEGIN THE WEEK OF JAN. 16. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 667-3647.