## television guide and entertainment supplement

## royal shakespeare company

THE HOLLOW CROWN by Peter Costwell

Although I have been exposed to live theatre in the past, the opportunity of viewing "The Hollow Crown' afforded me, for the first time, the pleasure of seeing the Royal Shakesspeare Company of England in action.

My first impression was one of disappointment for a number of reasons, the most obvious being the apparent lack of an elaborate set. It consisted simply of five chairs and one table, crafted in the Old English style, and three lengths of Royal Red cloth serving as a background.

My second reason for dismay was the total lack of costumes. The actors and actresses casually strolled onstage with a book for each serving as the only

this adjustment in the siasm or, for that matter, program, I was able to poise. One of the troupe on the acting and subject singing, and sang some of material.

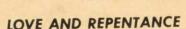
which consisted of letters they gave an excellent written by the various performance which was Kings and Queens of mirrored in the enthusiastic England, was extremely applause that they received. interesting and tended to propel the listener into the to their next appearance at past thoughts and intimate Dalhousie and hope that emotions of the English their next performance will Royalty. As a student of be a play. That way it's history I found this facina- much less confusing! ting because each of the documents, while being historically true seemed to fitin extremely well and provided remarkable continuity

Secondly, and most im-However, before the first portant, was the acting by five minutes had progress- the performers who despite these disturbing as- the lack of costume and set. pects were cleared up for did a fantastic job of me when it was explained portraying the various by a more knowledgeable Royal personalities begin-'patron of the arts', that ning with William the

this was to be a series of Conqueror and ending with readings and not a play. Queen Victoria. They acted Well, did I ever feel stupid! like the professionals they After adapting myself to are but neve lacked enthuconcentrate more intensely specilized not in acting, but the more melodious ballads The subject material, of old England. All in all,

I will be looking forward

If once in awhile people would try something a little different | believe they'd love it.



## by Tom Clahane

Love and Repentance by the Royal Shakespeare Company of worldwide fame was well done, perhaps not so well done as their other presentation of the "Hollow Crown", but entertaining none the less.

The production was subbilled as a lighthearted look at love, and contrary to what many people expected, was not a play, whole and contained, but was a series of



readings and song, on the subject of love through the ages. The selection of material ranged over wide grounds, containing everything from the romantic poets of the eithteenth century to the rockers of the twentieth, the Rolling Stones.

I will say here that this is probably my only complaint about the production, and before anyone jumps down my throat I will say that I realize that the reason behind

what happened was to add to a comedy, and I will admit that the way in which the song "Satisfaction" was done was funny, or at least mildly humourous. It irks me greatly

t o see art destroyed, and misinterpretation, purposful or not can destory art and leave a mildly humourous waste behind it.

"Satisfaction" was treated this way, read line for line, with no attempt to express the song in the way it was meant. Rather, there was a deliberate misinterpretation that seemed to be a snotty looking down attitude at an art form that was not appreciated nor understood by the performers (I hope). I say I hope because if it was understood by the performers they have committed a crime in belittling a work of art.

Aside from the massacre of Jagger and Richards the rest of the performance was top notch. There is a definite ignorance amongst many people both in and out of the university setting when it comes to what they believe they don't enjoy. This is evidenced by the number of empty seats at different presentations put on at the I grieve for everyone who passed up the opportunity to take in the Royal Shakespeare Company, and commend the company on two excellant perform-

