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The Lion in Winter, Magic Circle Theatre

Review: I came to see the tech rehearsal with my drama class last night and two days before opening the show is already amazing. The relationships that these actors have developed between each other is amazing. The actors take you through this story and keep you on the edge of your seat the whole time. Roger Hoopman delivers a believable performance and portrayal of a conflicted king. Debra Hammond keeps you wondering what secrets she has yet to expose as the show goes along. Simon Hunt is for lack of a better word perfect. He seems to understand his character on such a deep level. Zoe Garcia is beautiful and strong as princess alais. Dean Shellenburg (SP) is nothing short of a true warrior and sometimes poet. My favorite scenes in the show are phillips bedroom and the dungeon scene. In phillips bedroom the intensity increases more and more as multiple people are hiding in his room. David Garrison delivers a subtle yet perfect portrayal of a young deceiving king. His delivery of lines is unexpected and fresh. I was very much impressed with the set and the dim lighting of the stage to make you feel as if you are actually in a castle. Rosemarie Gerould's directing in this production is much different from anything i have seen her do. Although the show is rather long it is very rewarding in the end. Two thumbs up for this show.

Review: We attended the the production yesterday and throughly enjoyed it. Debra Hammond was perfect for the role of Eleanor. Nothing like a strong female lead. Rodger Hoopman as Henry - an excellent performance and very entertaining. It was a pleasure. Zoe Garcia as Alais is not only beautiful but has a wonderful voice. (Would like to see her as Kate in The Taming of the Shrew.) Simon Hunt's understated Geoffrey was well done and it is obvious there is a lot of talent in this young man. Dean Shellenberger as Richard had me thinking he could be a king...well done. Eric Bellah as John had a challenging role with successful results. This is always so difficult, my compliments. David Garrison as Phillip developed his character in a unique way. I've seen it done many different ways and his character's youth and strength came

through to the audience. I will be returning in April and be assured bringing my friends to see The Lion in Winter again. It was wonderful to see so much talent in Roseville, CA. Of course, the behind the scenes staff are to be congratulated too. It's never an easy task, is it?
- S. Johnson-Evans, Austin, Texas

Review: The Lion in Winter is the classic tale of the familial power struggle within the first house of Plantagenet to rule England. This fictionalized tale of very real persons takes on the richness of a Shakespearean tragi-comedy but without the Old English. The play, by the brilliant James Goldman, is one of the most intelligent, engaging scripts ever written. The seven actors in this extraordinarily talented cast are all to be commended for their performances. Most notable are Debra Hammond as Eleanor, Simon Hunt as Geoffrey and David Garrison as Philip. Debra brings the perfect amount of strength, subtlety, nuance and Machiavellian charm to Eleanor. Her timing is impeccable. Simon's portrayal of Geoffrey is nothing short of perfection. He exudes the right amount of slime and slyness without coming off as fake. And as Philip, the young David Garrison portrays the King of France with a golden touch. He brings out his strengths and weaknesses without being soft or wimpy. He is vulnerable and yet stands firm in his convictions. All of this could not have been achieved without the solid direction of Rosemarie Gerould. She brings all of the elements together for one of the best overall productions I have seen in a long time. The professionalism of the actors; the soft, effective lighting; the 12th century costuming; and even the hand-made furniture all played in perfect harmony for the success of this show.
- Skippy in Roseville

Review: Wow, what a great show! It really does not feel like a show you would see at Magic Circle but wow wow wow. A congratulate Rosemarie Gerould for really popping out a smartly directed performance. The cast was nothing less than perfect. With a slight exception of Eric Bellah who seems to have the slimy character of John Confused with a six year old. And if Simon Hunt didn't have an accent his performance would have lacked. Debra Hammond has found a brilliant balance when it comes to her roller coaster of different emotions. Roger Hoopman was very believable as a king that finds himself with some hard decisions. David Garrison was the biggest surprise of them all after seeing him in so many comedic roles I was really blown away by his emotion. It seemed so natural and not forced in the least bit. Out of all the actors in the show he seemed to be the most natural and believable. Two thumbs up for this show!!! it's a must see!

Review: Congratulations again, M. Circle, for putting on such a fine performance. The acting was superb, especially Eleanor. Such a fiery and unique character, the actress portraying her really brought that out - she was quite a "misbehaving" woman, considering the time period. The play, as written, is comical, in a dry sort of way, and the performers brought it to life with perfection. Would definitely recommend this show to all history teachers, students who have studied the Middle Ages, and even audiences who no nothing about Medieval history, but enjoy a great show.

- Mrs. W.

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