

'Dutchman' is nostalgic, challenging

Comment
by LES WHIPP

Assoc. Professor of English
An arduous, challenging, and nostalgic experience was seeing Jo Hill and Mike Randall as Lena and Clay in LeRoi Jones's Dutchman. The play exhausted me. What must it be like to have a role in it?

Both roles are collections diverse and conflicting roles, all at peak intensity, and Mike Randall and Jo Hill lived them very well.

The diversity of characterization and expression within each role emerged partly from the fullness of interpretation this production makes of the play. Lena operated at several levels. She was first a pseudo-sophisticated hung-up white chick, and she was also a personification of consumptive White America. She was also a personification of a self-destructive and self-rejecting tendency within an individual Black psyche in the context of a White America. Clay too, as performed by Mike Randall, was not simply a young Black man, confused, bemused, and enraged; he was also a personification of Black America, as well as of the Black identity within the psyche of an individual Black American.

The chief problem in present-

ing the play, I should guess, is to hold these interpretations together. Lena the Killer stalking Clay the lamb in the opening scene was very clearly an allegorical figure for Death, and for White America. Lena almost cracked, desperately consuming tranquilizers. She was simultaneously and most intensely a pathetic, crumbling, hung-up person and a minutely appropriate representation of a sick, drug oriented, consumer society consuming itself.

The success of the integration of the abstract and human levels of interpretation was derived from the highly symbolic costuming and the simplicity of the staging itself. The audience became part of

New Xerox at Union

A Xerox copier for general student use has been installed in the north end of the basement of the Nebraska Union, according to ASUN press secretary Jonette Beaver.

Cost will be 5 cents per copy rather than the 10c charged by other university copiers. The machine is equipped to copy standard 8½ by 11 inch paper and pages from books, she said.


the cast. What is represented in the play is the experience of the audience (as Jones perceives it), whether that audience is Black or White. That's why I found the production of the play nostalgic.

At the level of social abstractions, the play says that White America is destroying herself by preying on Black America. The play comes from a time when even LeRoi Jones

had that faith and belief and hope. Obviously, LeRoi Jones has had that faith and belief and hope stripped away now, and has come to feel that the time for pointing out imminent danger is past, that the reality of the Black-White love-hate relationship in American society is a reality in which one either kills or is killed.

By staging the play, Jo Hill and Mike Randall give the

University community in Lincoln another chance to hear the warning, a chance chiefly for Whites to hear, understand, and respond to what it is like to be a Black American in a White America. That was hopeful of them. They also gave our community a chance to see good acting in demanding roles in a complex and challenging play. And that was beautiful of them.



Orange Blossom
Symbol of a Dream

Catch a sparkle
from the morning sun.
Hold the magic
of a sudden breeze.
Keep those moments alive.

Sartor Hamann

Serving Lincoln Since 1905
1129 "O" STREET
REGISTERED JEWELERS AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

Snowflake

TOM'W NIGHT
SAT., OCT. 10 at 8:00 P.M.
PROFESSIONAL

ICE HOCKEY

PRE-SEASON CLASH
EXHIBITION GAME
OMAHA KNIGHTS
—vs—
KANSAS CITY BLUES

TICKET OFFICE OPEN
12 Noon till 6 P.M.

ADULTS \$3.00
STUDENT 10'S \$2.00

PERSHING MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

PEP RALLY TONIGHT

Starts at 6 p.m. South of The Union

BALLOON DAY TOMORROW

**BROTHERS GIVE THE SHIRT
OFF THEIR BACK —**

**OUR FRIEND, THE SHEEP,
HAS GIVEN US ALL HIS WOOL.**

LAYNE'S 100% Sheepskin
Bugs

1730 B St. 475-5806

The new blades vs. Norelco.



We won.

In an independent test, some independent men shaved one side of their face with a platinum or chromium blade. They shaved the other side with our Tripleheader 35T shaver. When they finished shaving, we had them feel their faces. 7 out of 10 said our Tripleheader shaved them as close or closer than either the platinum or chromium blade. Some of the men were surprised. But, frankly, we weren't. Because the Norelco Tripleheader is a totally different kind of electric shaver.

It has three shaving heads that float, to follow the curves of your face. Our blades are rotary. So they shave in every direction. (Because your beard grows in every direction.) And we make our shaving heads ultra-thin. So it's possible to get a really close shave. And practically impossible to nick or cut yourself. The Tripleheader comes in a Cord and a Rechargeable model. Either way, you can't lose.



Norelco
You can't get any closer.

© 1970 North American Philips Corporation, 100 East 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.