

# Little Murders is a Pathetic Comment

by G.E. Gaynor

Jules Fieffer's play *Little Murders* is a pathetic comment on the state of human nature in Western society. In response to this play Glendon at large has waived any rule in censorship and has left it entirely to the discretion and good judgement of students.

In the D.A.P. production, it is suggested we have forgotten that humour derived from homosexuality, violence, and nihilism, is an unfit and incomplete picture of the human predicament. If you are entertained, you are twisted. If you are not entertained, you are instructed to the extent of your despair at the degeneracy of our society.

This is the full extent of Fieffer's plot in *Little Murders* and it culminates in the Newquist family resolving their problems by shooting people from their apartment.

If there is any principle that theatre should embody at Glendon, it would be a play selection based on a moral responsibility of all participants. Exactly what this responsibility is, you can be sure, remains equally baffling to all, (i.e. self righteousness).

We may turn to the stringent Laws of

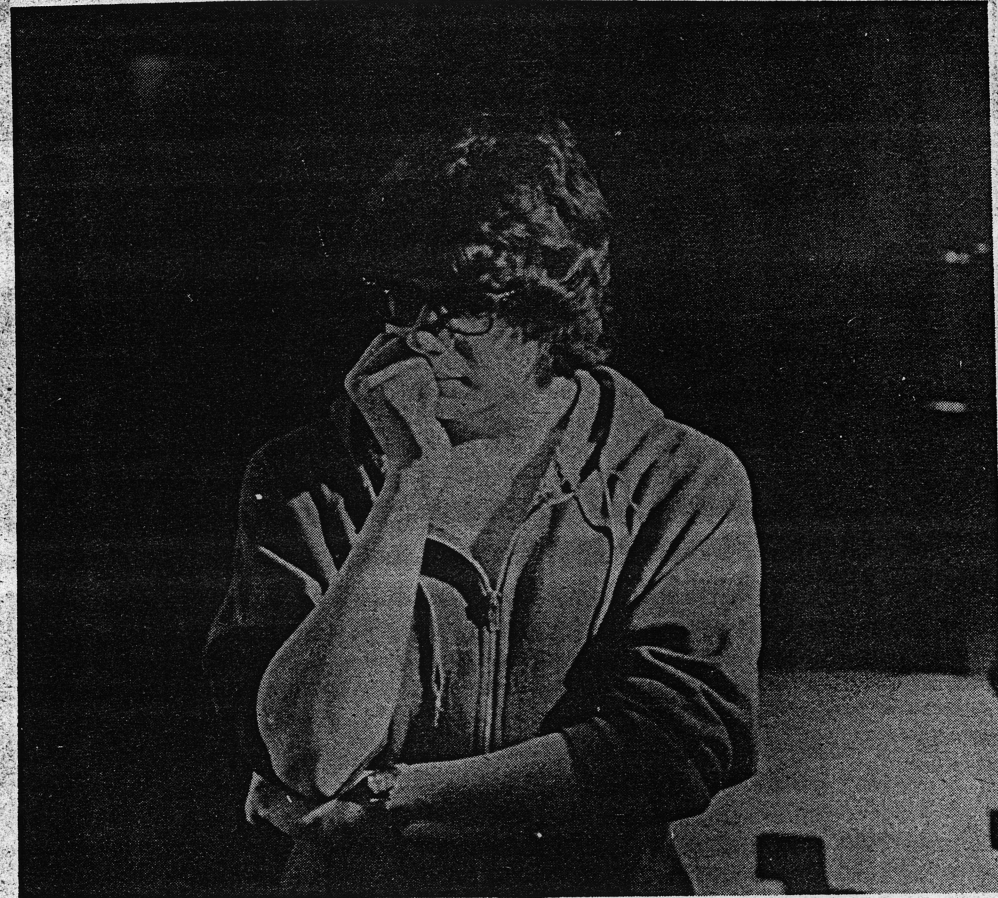
Plato and kick Fieffer's statement in its implied completeness, the hell off campus. The grounds being Mimesis of depravity in its extreme dramatic expression. The danger here being, the young can become infected with the reality Mimicked.

Or we can turn to Brecht and puzzle over the contradictions comprising human behaviour. Then of course, we can resort to Aristotle and conclude the whole Arts issue as strictly entertainment, presumably for catharsis.

Since Fieffer is elsewhere, his second best argument is that we should air society's problems so it will add impetus to such moral commentary. Fieffer's third best argument is that entertainment and instruction will strengthen or affront moral fibre.

Here's a thorn - Don't we know this?! You are affronted by society, and it's extensions through it's media etc. Or is it that we are like his characters? Alfred Chamberlain locked tight within, content to shoot shit.

About the production, set direction, dramatic form in presentation, costumes, sound and lighting; sad to say - they were all excellent, each with or without their own justification. I, for one - have none.



Jim Smith as Kenny in *Little Murders*

*Pro Tem Oct 29 '75*