The official newspaper of Middlesex County College

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Spring Semester 2002

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"The vigilant protection of constitutional freedoms is nowhere more vital than in the community of American schools." Healy v. James, 1972



Acting Dean Robert Zifchak is seen here accepting an award for his 30 plus year's service at MCC during the Dean's Tea Reception and Award ceremony April 23. Zifchak is retiring after the end of this semester.

Photo By Frank Cicerale

Students are given recognition at Dean's Reception Ceremony

By Frank Cicerale
Editor-In-Chief

The 24th annual Dean's Tea Reception and Awards Ceremony was held in the Corral Restaurant April 23. The ceremony, put on by the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities, was held to honor students who excelled in their fields of study.

After an opening speech by the vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, Robert Fishco, the awards were given out. Natalia Adler left the ceremony with the

most accolades, as she was the recipient of the Modem Language Scholarship Award, the Faculty Award for Excellence in French, and the Irving Elan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Sciences and Humanities.

Awards were given out by department, starting with the English department. The Larry L. Cohen Award for Excellence in the Study of Literature went to both Carol Lovallo and Marjorie Mastromonaco, and the McGraw-Hill Award for Excellence in English went to Danielle

R. Reynolds. The Reney Meyers Award for Achievement in Creative Writing went to Ann M. Wood, and the Faculty Award for Achievement in Journalism went to Quo Vadis staffers Frank Cicerale and Ryan McGuinness.

The ESL department gave out two awards to students in their department. ESL chair Eileen Hansen awarded the ESL Department Award to Agustin Calle, and the Special ESL Award for Outstanding Student ac(continued on page 4)

Nursing program expands with grant

By Michael Mosher Contributing Writer

The top-ranked Middlesex County College/UMDNJ Nursing Program will increase its student enrollment by 50 percent this fall because of a nearly \$476,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation.

Beginning September 2002, 20 additional full-time nursing students will be admitted, bringing the total to 60 students. The grant will allow the program to hire between two and three additional clinical staff, primarily for evening and weekend instruction.

"The grant comes at a very good time for us," said Dr. ReginaldLuke, Dean of Science, Math, and Health Technology. "We have this really great supply of open college students who want to go into nursing. Our problem is that we didn't have enough seats."

Currently, there are approximately 400 MCC students majoring in open college nursing. According to Peter Rice, Director of Admissions, "There were 283 applications to the nursing program for the Fall 2002 semester. Of those, there were 126 applicants who met the eligibility requirements."

While the nation grapples with a severe nursing shortage, there is no lack of applicants to the school's program. With only 40 seats avail-

able, the need for expansion is clear. "This opens the door for more nurses," Luke said.

Two factors making the grant possible were an alliance formed between the MCC Foundation, the RWJ Foundation, and the college's nursing program status.

"The MCC Foundation approached key people in the RWJ Foundation to inquire what ways we could partner," Nancy Peters, Director of the MCC Foundation, said.

"The RWJ Foundation had a strong interest in increasing the number of practicing nurses. The MCC Foundation responded that there are large numbers of applicants to the program versus a limited number of openings for new nursing students," Peters said.

The MCC Foundation then went through a lengthy application process. Giving the application more credibility was the national status achieved by the class of 2001.

All 25 of the graduating students passed the national board exam for registered nurses, NCLEX-RN. The pass rate ranked the MCC/UMDNJ nursing program number one over all other associate degree programs in the nation.

Luke commended the faculty and students' achievements, particularly on their national standing.

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The Blue Filly

By Jennifer Levine Columnist

Mood: Reminiscent and pleased Music: "Beyond the Sea" by Bobby Darin

Wow, I can't believe the semester is almost over. My first semester at college and it went by like that. Granted, I got by on the skin of my teeth, but I just can't believe it. It feels like a year has gone by.

I've met so many new people this semester. People always said I have a magnetic personality, and my first semester here proved them right. I love the fact that it only took me a few weeks to make friends and contacts all over the campus. By the end of the first month of school I was already writing for Quo Vadis, the school newspaper, in the Myriad, and working for the Social Committee.

I've made so many new friends, and they are all from different backgrounds. I will do people the courtesy of not mentioning their names here. One girl probably has the best fashion sense of anyone on campus, and she was kind enough to let me in on her secrets and talk fashion with me on several occasions. One woman, who is probably the sweetest person of authority I've met, was kind enough to be a sounding board for ideas, and allowed me to be an integral part in College Center activities. Two awesome student workers from the Student Activities office were really cool with me, and we had a lot of laughs and great conversations. Two other women, who I had the privilege of working with in The Vagina Monologues, helped me to laugh on my darkest of days and reminded me ofhow much sass I really have.

Some of the guys here at MCC have been really great too. I had one to talk to, an old friend to take me out to lunch, one to beat on, one to totally rag on, one to smile at, and



one who reminded me where I came from.

Of course, there were darker days when I thought I wasn't cut out for college. But I stuck with it, and I think it made a bit tougher.

There are so many memories. From newspaper meetings to Myriad sessions, All College Night to 92-degree days & water fights, I had so much fun. The Vagina Monologues was an awesome and altogether life changing experience. I had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the most amazing women, most of whom I will never forget. As an added bonus, the paper I wrote on my experiences will be sent to the author of the show, Eve Ensler. The Private Life of the Master Race helped me to find the dramatic emotions within. The cast was so dedicated, and in the end, the show was incredible. I wish to thank directors Tom McNeill and Jim Morgan for giving me some great opportunities.

All in all, this was an unforgettable semester. I want to thank the people whose initials are shown here, and if I did not include you, I apologize. PW, Scott, M, TN, EW, K, P.Rice, TA, A, B, C, Ed, AC, P.Daly, Keith, Frank, Ryan, L, SG, JM, Y, HN, Meng, FT, the Backstage Players, PLOMR cast and crew, TVM cast and crew, the Hip-Hop Dance Club, the Myriad, the Quo Vadis Staff, and the Social Committee. Also, thanks to my professors: DiDom, Jim, Mrs. O, and Miss Aimee, and Joan!

Look for my column and entertainment articles this fall in Quo Vadis.

Until next year: This fine filly says farewell!

say

With this being the lastreal issue during my interim as Editor-In-Chief at Quo Vadis, there is a lot that I learned and experienced during my time here. I learned the ins and outs of running a newspaper; of hitting the deadlines on time; of setting up an office the way I would like it to be; of dealing with people both in an out of the office. I learned that a job in the journalism field is a lot more work than I thought it would be, but it something that I love to do.

I also learned that journalism is a tough business to be involved in. When everyone loves what you are publishing, as an editor, you don't hear a peep. There are no angry Letters to the Editor. You basically have peace and quiet from the masses that read your paper. When people don't like what you say or what you publish; however, you most definitely hear about it. The main thing that I

learned during my time here is that an editor is only as good as the people who back him or her up, and I had a wonderful staff this year. Therefore, I would like to take the time and the space to thank all of those individually for all they have done for Quo Vadis and myself this semester.

Ryan McGuinness was not only a great Business and Office Manager, but a friend that I could rely on for anything. He was by far one of the biggest assets I had during the semester, and the wonderful job he did kept the paper running smoothly.

An assistant editor's job is basically to do the grunt work editing articles, checking things over, revising the paper. Michael Jeter always did things when I needed them done. Michael was a huge help this semester in allowing me to walk into the office Wednesday afternoon and be able to put an eight page paper together by the end of the day.

Jessica Levine, Wendy Bodine, Jen Levine, and all of the others who contributed articles to the paper were absolutely wonderful this semester. They had great article ideas, great columns, and always handed in assignments that were looked over, well written, and done completely.

While next year some of us will be moving on to different colleges and on to bigger things, some will be staying here. In a way it is sad to see such a great staff and a great nucleus of people go their separate ways, but alas, that is life. I can say this, however. When I amout in the world about to retire, I know that I will be able to look back at my time here at Quo Vadis and say that we did one helluva job. Thanks everyone for making my last semester here the most memorable, and lots of luck in the future.

Quo Vadis, the official newspaper of Middlesex County College, is published during the spring and fall semesters.

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Staff

Editor-In-Chief	Frank Cicerale
Assistant Editor	Michael Jeter
Reporter	Wendy K. Bodine
Reporter	Jessica Levine
Reporter	Mathew Schreibman
Columnist	Jennifer Levine
Photographer	Qi Zhao
Office Manager	Ryan McGuinness
Business Manager	Ryan McGuinness
Faculty Advisor	Keith Drumbore

Phone: (732) 548-6000, ext. 3443 Fax: (732) 906-4167 Email: quovadis newspaper@hotmail.com

Does the nursing program need more students?

By Michael Mosher Contributing Columnist

Who cares about 20 more student nurse openings at MCC? You might. The number is small, especially when compared with our student body of 11,000. However, the effect is great. You or someone you know may visit a local hospital or clinic for medical care. The nurse on duty may be an MCC/UMDNJ graduate. One of our graduates may have simply added to that department's staff, thereby allowing you to receive better nursing care. However direct or indirect it might be to you. this increase might affect you in a substantial way.

Who cares about the Middlesex County College Foundation? You should. In addition to paving the way for the

grant from the generous Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) Foundation, over 500 students receive private scholarships each year because of MCC the Foundation's efforts. That translates into over 500 students focusing more attention on their studies and less on financial obstacles. Your classmate sitting beside you in psychology, history or biology class may be attending school or working fewer hours because of the Foundation's hard work.

As so many other events on campus and in our lives beg for our attention, let us not forget that valuable, lasting things often take root from small or unnoticed beginnings. To the RWJ and MCC Foundations I say, "Thank you."

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13 Small bug
14 Article
15 7th Greek letter
17 Elater
19 Malæ tatting
21 __ King Cole
23 Opera solo
24 Expression of sorrow
26 Dine
28 Mistakes
30 Scar
32 17th Greek letter
34 Self
35 Atop
37 Tongue
40 Prefix meaning "in"
41 Sack
43 Done
44 Haul
46 Tehran is the capital
46 Gang
50 Substance

12 Former Russian emperor

ACROSS

1 Able

4 Pop

8 Ocean

11 Lady

55 Angry
57 Peak
58 Park police
60 Help1
62 Exist
63 N. American Indian
64 Bright star
66 Ald
68 Ever (poetic)
69 Freshwater duck
70 Each

DOWN
1 Water channel
2 Form of be
3 Born

53 Iran's monetary unit

1 Water channel
2 Form of be
3 Born
4 Old
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6 Bit
7 Region
8 Irony
9 Grow
10 Dined
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16 Preposition
18 Before (Poetic)
20 Cap

22 Earl's territory 25 Unhappy 27 Article 29 Father's boy 31 Free 33 Fall month (abbr.) 35 Sash 36 Tell 38 Focus 39 Clothes 42 Type of dive 45 Sage 47 Gripe 49 Basic 51 Serious 52 Allowance 54 Season of fasting 56 Achieve 58 Woe 59 Fish eggs

61 Sucker

67 Exist

65 Eastern state (abbr.)

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Quo Vadis Editor-In-Chief Frank Cicerale is seen here accepting the 2002 Faculty Award for Excellence in Journalism from Acting Dean Robert Zifchak at the Dean's Reception. Quo Vadis Business/Office Manager Ryan McGuinness also received the same award.

Photo by Ryan McGuinness

Students are given recognition at Dean's Reception Ceremony

(continued from page 1)

colades went to Anna DiMaio.

The department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance gave out a few awards, starting with the Faculty Award for Academic Excellence in Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, which went to Robyn Bilello. The Faculty Award for Most Promising Student in Dance went to Lisa Petersen, and the Faculty Award for Excellence in the Study of Dance was awarded to Danielle Kana.

The department of History and Social Behavior handed out two awards. The Thomas F. Mannion award for Excellence in the Studies of Criminal Justice was given to Kelly M. Livett, and the

Faculty Award for Excellence in the Studies of History and Social Behavior went to John Ruskuski.

The Modern Language department handed out the most awards, two of which went to Adler. Faculty Awards for both Excellence and Outstanding Achievement were given out for those taking French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Adler and Deborah Buchma were the winners in French, Jenny Lopez and Monika Shiffner for German, Marian Cristina Gonzalez and Lareina Adelantar in Italian, and Beate Kolka and Frank Dominguez in Spanish.

The Psychology and Education department gave out a dozen awards to deserving recipients. Melissa Erishka Lala and Stephanie Rose Debella won the awards for Excellence in Liberal Arts

Psychology Degree Option, and Maureen Drabyk, Karin D. Hallenbeck, Sharon Montecalvo, and Ann M. Wood were awarded the Excellence in Liberal Arts Education Degree Option award. The Award for the Most Improved and Promising Future Educator went to Michael Mosher.

Awards were also given out by the Performing and Visual Arts Department, and specialty awards were given out to three deserving students as well.

Also during the ceremony, retiring dean Robert Zifchak was honored for his thirty plus years of service to Middlesex County College. Congratulations to all of the students who received awards. They were well earned and deserved.

Thanks for reading our paper and have a nice summer!!!

- The Quo Vadis Staff

The Race Against State Murder in New Jersey

By Bruce Howard
Columnist

As you read this, New Jersey is oiling the doors on its death chamber in Trenton State Prison. Our state is racing towards its first execution since reinstating the death penalty in 1981. New Jerseyans for a Death Penalty Moratorium is trying to bring public attention to the fact that perhaps by the end of 2002, the State of New Jersey might commit murder in your name.

Throughout April, Douglass College at Rutgers University held a series of programs centered on capital punishment and on April 18th, student groups at Rutgers invited members of the Journey of Hope to speak on campus. The Journey of Hope is a touring group of family members of murder victims who fight against state mur-SueZann Bosler and Bill Pelke told their moving stories of personal tragedy, loss, and healing.

SueZann Bosler watched her father get stabbed to death in her own house. Bill Pelke suffered the loss of his grandmother to four teenage girls who murdered and robbed her. They both fought to overturn the death penalty sentence for the convicted murderers. Pelke and Bosler said that more violence would not, in any way, be constructive to the healing process people must go through after they've suffered the violent loss of a loved one.

New Jersey State Assembly bill A-1913 is calling for a one - year moratorium on the death penalty in New Jersey. The bill would suspend executions for one year and create the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission, which would examine the death penalty in our state, just as a similar bill did in Illinois.

The time to act is now. If, at the end of this year, the state has killed in our names, we must all assume responsibility. If you are firm in the belief that murder is wrong, then you must speak out now. If you are aware that the 100th person has recently been exonerated from death row in America and don't wish to see an innocent person executed in New Jersey, then help support this legislation. Do not let A-1913 die in the judiciary committee. Middlesex Students for Social Justice will attempt to set up meetings with our local assemblypersons, and we will be encouraging them to support the moratorium bill. If vou want to help in this process, whether you are a student, faculty - or staff member at this college, please contact us.

Fighting for Social Justice and Equality is a weekly column written by members of Middlesex Students for Social Justice. Http://www.geocities.com/yourenotaslave.



Quo Vadis is looking for student volunteers for the Fall Semester 2002.

Positions open include:

- · Editor-In-Chief
- · News Reporter
- . Sports Reporter
- · Columnist
- · Editor
- ·Photographer
- · Layout Editor
- · Cartoonist
- · Business Manager (PAID POSITION)
- · Delivery Person (PAID POSITION)

If you are interested in joining the Quo Vadis staff, please call us at (732) 548-6000, ext. 3443 or e-mail us at quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com.

You may also stop by our office, located in the College Center, Room 316 (Top Floor).

Gun surrender program to be held in Middlesex County

By Wendy K. Bodine Reporter

The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office will co-sponsor a gun surrender program during the first weekend in May. The goal of the program is to get as many firearms off the streets as possible. Those wishing to turn in their guns will face no criminal charges, and no questions will be asked. There are cash rewards ranging from \$40.00 to \$100.00 for those who turn in their guns at one of five sites located in Middlesex County. The prosecutor's office will accept firearms in any condition.

Cindy P. Glacer, Assistant Prosecutor for Middlesex County, stated that they had over 1,845 firearms surrendered at the last program they held back in 1994, and they are hoping for and even greater turnout this

"The surrender process is simple," explained Glacer. "The person would drive up to their local drop-off site, and be greeted by a uniformed police officer. This officer will receive the gun from the person and make sure it is safe to be handled. They will take a "cable tie" and run it through the gun, acting as a trigger lock, so the gun cannot be fired by accident. Once the gun has been determined to be safe, the officer will hand it back to the person, who will then take it to the drop-off site. They will be handed their cash reward, and that's that. They are free to go."

Many gun owners fear prosecution as a result of taking part in the gun surrender program, but Glacer assures them they have nothing to fear. The sole purpose of the program is to reduce the number of guns on the streets of Middlesex County. Although the owners of these guns might be well-meaning, law-abiding citizens, there is no guarantee that these firearms won't fall into the hands of criminals, or worse, a child in their own home. Statistics show that the gun in your house is more likely to hurt or kill someone in your home than it is to be used against an intruder.

You can take your unloaded gun to the following locations on Friday, May 3rd, from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Saturday, May 4th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and Sunday, May 5th, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm:

Carteret Police Dept. Lobby, 230 Roosevelt Ave., Carteret, NJ

Edison Police Dept. Lobby, 100 Municipal Blvd., Edison, NJ

N Brunswick Police Dept., Rear Entrance, Kirkpatrick St., New Brunswick, NJ

Sayreville Police Dept. Lobby, 1000 Main St., Sayreville, NJ

South Brunswick Police Dept. Lobby, 540 Ridge Rd., South Brunswick, NJ

For more information, call the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office at (732) 745-3300.

MCC Baseball team splits doubleheader

By Mathew Schreibman Sports Reporter

MCC Baseball defeated Raritan Valley College 13-3. Peter Tamboni pitched a complete game, Steven Bailey had a single and a triple, and Roman Carreas had double and a triple.

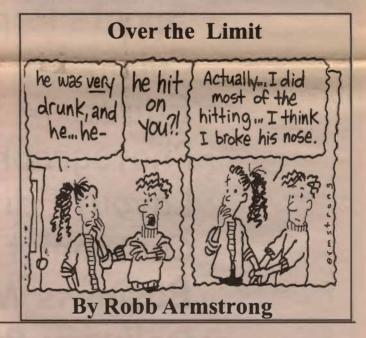
In their next game, they played Burlington County College in a doubleheader.

The first game MCC lost 13-2. "We did not play well."-Coach Michael Lepore said. MCC won their second game,

Paul Asseng went three for three with two RBI's. The game was tied 6-6 in the bottom of the sixth, when Alex Viadal hit the game - winning run.

Anthony Guiamno struck out the last batter, leaving runners were first and third.

Due to the fact that it was raining, their game against Lackawanna College was rained out. Their game against Morris CC was canceled because of a regional game.



GRADUATION MAY 2002

A memo from Robert M. Fishco, Vice President for Academic Affairs

courage all students sion for you to celwho earned their as- ebrate with your sociate degrees in MCC classmates and August 2001, January faculty AND it is an 2002 and those stu- equally momentous dents who are com- event for your famipleting their associate lies to have the opdegrees in May 2002 portunity to share to attend the Gradua- with you. So, be tion Ceremony on there to honor your-Thursday, May 23, self and to give them 2002, at 10:00 a.m. the opportunity to Also, please plan to honor you. Your attend the graduation MCC faculty and adrehearsal scheduled ministrators will be for Wednesday, May there as well to send 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Remember, this is ture with good cheer.

I strongly en- an important occayou off into your fuThe Blue Colt Bookstore Wishes to Congratulate The Middlesex County College Class of 2002



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Nursing program expands with grant

(continued from page 1)

"Pat Mahoney [Nursing Department Chairperson] has done a wonderful job in conducting and leading the program to achieve the 100% pass rate. Pat and her staff have such a good, quality program. That's why it attracts so many applicants."

In addition to increasing the nursing staff, the college will use a smaller portion of the grant to implement online instruction access and a mentoring and tutoring program to further support the nursing students' needs.

The grant from the RWJ Foundation is renewable after three years. The RWJ Foundation's published

mission is "to improve health healthcare of all Americans."

"The [MCC] Foundation's mission is to help students," Peters said. In addition to other projects, Peters explained, "the Foundation assisted over 520 students to receive private scholarships for the current school year."

The nursing program is run jointly with UMDNJ. "Middlesex [County College] provides the facilities and the support and UMDNJ provides the faculty," Luke said.

For additional information about the MCC/UMDNJ nursing program contact the MCC Admissions Office at (732) 906-4243.

A mythical masterpiece is currently on Broadway

By Jennifer Levine Entertainment Reporter

Metamorphoses is essentially the best small theatre show I have ever

My Introduction to Theatre class and I had the chance to see it April 16, and I daresay we enjoyed it thoroughly. It is without a doubt the best depiction of any of the Roman myths I have seen yet.

Many of the actors and actresses in the company were seasoned in depicting epics and mythologies because they had previously been in director Mary Zimmerman's The Odyssey.

The cast was utterly diverse, and the costumes were creative and flowing, while still being instrumental to the plot. Ovid, possibly one of the world's oldest and most renowned

storytellers, would have been very pleased with Zimmerman's adaptation and direction. She captivated audiences with his tales of narcissism, incest, greed, and love.

It is my general recommendation that anyone who is interesting in mythology or just open to hear a good story should attend a performance of Metamorphoses immediately. And, for a ticket price that should not exceed \$75, this show is worth every penny.

This show, coming from a small tour and short off-Broadway run, will definitely be a commercial success. I believe this because the story is extremely appealing. Everyone has had feelings of lust, greed, or violence. These stories that reflect the myths of Ovid represent the human qualities that even the gods of that age withheld

It is, therefore, obvious that this show has done well as of late, what with the selling out of its first month at the Circle in the Square on Broadway. Furthermore, after a good commercial standing on Broadway, myself and other critics will agree that this show will tour as well as stay at 50th, between Broadway and 8th, for as long as the theatre will allow. It must travel to spread the intense adventure and excitement of storytelling in its purest form: theatre. Only then will the message that we are all human, vulnerable, and subject to temptation be known.

It is agreeable, though, that Zimmerman and company are definitely in for a long ride.

Now, for all intents

(continued on page 8)

Priority Deadline for Admission and Financial Aid: May 15! Information Session March 10! Prepare for Something Wonderful: Your Life Georgian Court College



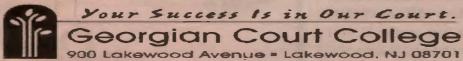
Information Session: Sunday, April 21, 1pm

The key word is prepare. Wonderful lives don't just happen. They take careful preparation and hard work.

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PASSES AGGET FOR SHOELD PASSES AGGT FOR SHOELD PASSES AGG

Students in the Visual Arts Department have their art on display in the College Center this week. The artwork is exceptional, and all are invited to stop by and take a look.

Photo by Jessica Levine



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Masterpiece currently on Broadway

(continued from page 7)

and purposes, this show is the translation of the Roman myths of Ovid, or Publius Ovidius Naso, as they once were told as poetry in the Latin language.

It would be callous of this writer to reveal the whole plot, but for now I will retell some details of the mythical selection and scenes that were retold to the audience. Primarily, there was the story of King Midas, who we all know was insatiably greedy. When Midas is confronted by one of the gods and given a wish, he prays that everything he touches be turned to gold.

Of course, the entire audience was wondering how on earth the effect of gold would be given to the set. Honorably, when Midas walked along the shore, his every footstep struck the dock and it changed to gold. The fish he caught appeared to turn to gold. The leaves off the trees he picked became golden.

This scene was oddly funny, except for when Midas's youthful daughter Myrrha came to hugher father, jumping into his arms. She too turned to gold.

The rest of the show was much like this scene.
There were lots of inter-

action between the gods and the humans, and the result of many of the plots was the theme "be careful what you wish for."

Alas, I think the adaptation of these particular myths, which also included Orpheus and Eurydice, Narcissus, Alcyon, and Phaeton, was to prove the myths that we are all human and are subject to the ills of the world like any other.

One would definitely think that the most peculiar part of this play was the set and how it was constructed. The backdrop, which was like a piece of the sky, was offset and hiding a platform in which the gods appeared. There were wings below the main stage, which most likely led to the backstage area.

Also, there was a large door made in the downstage to appear as a portal, a wall, or just the average door. Essentially, the most important part of this stage was the pool. Possibly 30 ft by 30 ft, this square pool was set directly in the middle of the room, and was surrounded, eye-level and above, by the audience seating.

This writer would argue that the purpose of this pool was not just to illustrate much of the water theme that was present,

but to display the infinity and darkness that came from the water. The pool, which appeared black and not blue like most pools, reflected everyone and everything so much clearer, and when no one was onstage, it was like staring into nothingness.

It is the belief of some that life on this planet began with water, and it is illustrated in this play that life can end the same way, in one way or another. In either sense, the pool, which happened to go from a foot deep to chest deep on some of the actors, was a character in the play itself, taking part in every scene and having a most valuable role.

As I said earlier, I definitely recommend this program to any person who likes a good storytelling, theatregoers and non-theatregoers alike. With spectacular effects, implicit lighting, utterly fabulous acting, and world class direction, Metamorphoses is an altogether pleasing Broadway experience. It has everything the theatergoer wants: deceit, lust, intrigue, adventure, and, of course, romance.

This retelling of Ovid's myths is highly enjoyable and should have a long Broadway run. This critic gives it 5 out of 5 stars.

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