Finally, a “Pippin” you don’t want to get injured against the Celtics

Praise for “Pippin”, page 11

whose comic timing and voice could only be described as superhuman. Ms. Shaia commands the rare ability to involve the audience in his character's experiences, and his performance was wonderfully engaging. He was truly convincing as the confused young Pippin searching for purpose.

Bridging the gap between the players and audience as Pippin’s narrator, Lisa Bergeron brought a fantastic voice and compelling performance to “Pippin” in the complex role of the Leading Player. She was credible playing his muse, his devil’s advocate, and his conscience.

As King Charlemagne, John Michnya was at once perfectly comical and regal, and Annie Rubino, who portrayed his calculating wife and mother, brought a wonderful performance. John Keller was delightful in his role as Lewis, Fastrada’s son. In his comically sexual performance, he was able to create a truly memorable character.

Sue Kelly was riotous as Pippin’s grandmother Berthe, and her song “No Time At All” (sung with an ensemble of half-naked men) may have been the most hilarious scene in the entire show.

Playing his main romantic interest, Catherine, Alan Gingerich was impeccably over-the-top in a gifted execution of dramatic comedy. Though set in pre-revolutionary France, the language and costumes used in “Pippin” bridged the centuries: Charlemagne wore period costume, while Lewis wore fatigues. Oddly enough, the anachronism worked; they served to connect the audience to the action on stage and supported the relevance of the plot.

The issues dealt with by “Pippin” (sex, hopelessness, lack of direction) are applicable to any person of any age, in any time period. The exaggerated sexuality that prevailed through this musical was a perfect mode of communicating to an audience of college kids, and translated the concerns of the play into a very accessible format.

At the close of the performance, in an extremely dramatic scene, Pippin’s choice to be with Catherine and her son is challenged by the Leading Player. She implies that Pippin is compromising his “extraordinary” nature in pursuing a simple life, and tempts him with suicide, her alternative to his seeming failure to attain a perfectly happy existence. Through this, the audience is made to challenge their own inner yearnings, especially when the Leading Player directly addresses the audience, asking for some extraordinary person to pick up where Pippin left off, and aspire to perfection — or die trying.

In a blatantly in-your-face manner, “Pippin” forces us all to examine our own concepts of the ideal life, and what we are willing to “settle” for.

What’s Happening in Worcester

A Valentine’s Day guide to “The Big

By JULIA R. CROWLEY

Valentine’s Day is just around the corner — “Woo hoo!” That is, unless you think the holiday is a horrid, nausea-inducing idea brought to us by corporate America. Of course those of you “in love” think it is a wonderful idea to have a day dedicated to you and your special someone so you can make everyone else ill.

However, cynical people like myself get revved in our loneliness, so haha the joke’s on you!

For those of you who won’t be staying home in their pajamas crying into a pint of Ben & Jerry’s while watching “Sleepless in Seattle” for the hundredth time, there are a few places you may consider going that are off Holy Cross’ beaten path. If you are looking for a nice-yet-affordable place to take your significant other to dinner (or a group of your similarly single friends want to go out), Dino’s Ristorante is the place to be. Serving the best Italian food, this place is easy on the college student’s wallet.

Located less than a minute from the Plantation Club, Dino’s has been one of Worcester’s favorite restaurants for generations. There are appetizers like mussels or fried ravioli which are both $5.95, and you can order soups and salads which are $5.00 and under. However, you can kill two birds with one stone by ordering everyone’s favorite appetizer, Dino’s Antipasto. For $8.95 you can get a medium order of this dish, which is like a salad on steroids.

The menu says this is for two people, but there is plenty for at least for three.

The pasta dishes range from the basic spaghetti and meatballs at $8.95 to the more expensive linguini with clam sauce at $12.95. There are also several chicken, veal, seafood, and beef dishes that are served with pasta, typically $10. While some of these can be a little pricey, you can find something delicious in the $13.00 range. Though pan seared scallops may be too intimidating for some, there are also salads and sandwiches to fit almost everyone’s tastes. There are meatball sandwiches and veal parmigiana sandwiches that are $5.95 and $8.95, with other choices falling in between. You can pick from Dino’s specialty pizzas, which are about $11.00, or you can choose your own toppings. There is something for even the pickiest eater.

The atmosphere is also quite pleasing. The size of the restaurant lends itself to a comfortable and cozy vibe where one feels right at home. While there is no bad seat in the house, the best part of the entire Dino’s Ristorante experience is sitting on the platform. I don’t really know what to call it except for a platform. It’s really only one stair above the rest of the seating, but there are lights and plants strung around the area, making the few booths there seem special. So if you go, or call for reservations, make sure you ask to sit there.

Moving away from Valentine’s Day dinner, you may be looking for what all of us look for on Cupid’s Day: chocolate (by the way, ever notice that Cupid is like this big naked baby with wings and an arrow? Kinda dangerous). Hebert’s Candy Mansion is one of the best places for holiday candies. It’s even better when you go after the holiday and you can buy it on sale. You can also take your love for a free tour of the candy mansion and then treat him or her to a make-your-own sundae. This Sunday the store is holding its annual “Sweetheart Concert” from 1-2 p.m., featuring the children of the Performing Arts School of Worcester, and the Suzuki Violinists. Bring your own “sweetie” and receive a sweet treat! It’s their way of saying “Happy Valentines Day!” to all their customers.

Directions: To get to Dino’s Ristorante take 290E and get off on the Shrewsbury St. exit. When Shrewsbury St. ends you take a right onto Plantation St. and the restaurant will be on your right, straight ahead. Call 508-753-4097 for more information. Hebert’s Candy Mansion is located in Shrewsbury and you can go to www.hebertcandies.com for directions.

Ask Veronica

Pounding booze leads to pounding headache... sound familiar?

Dear Veronica,

I found a product for hangovers that people claim really works. From the ingredient list, attached, can you offer your opinion? It contains Vitamin B-1 (250 mg), Aspirin (450 mg), Tylenol (288 mg), Calcium Carbonate (500 mg), and Caffeine (64 mg).

Sincerely,

Hangover and Helpless

Dear II and II,

It seems like everyone has a secret hangover remedy they swear by. These days, many companies are banking on the fact that those “morning-after” symptoms can be downright miserable and stubborn. A word to the wise, however: the only real cure for a hangover is time.

No matter what you do to lessen the symptoms - aches, nausea, sluggishness - you’ll still just have to wait for your body to finish processing and getting rid of the excess alcohol you’ve consumed. The most effective way to deal with hangovers is to manage your drinking as you go along, so that your body has a chance to balance things out as you drink - therefore, avoiding the yuck-factor altogether.

Also, remember that one of the main factors in a hangover is dehydration. Remember my previous suggestion of alternating each alcoholic beverage you consume with a glass of juice or water. Unfortunately, there just as there is no cure for drunkenness, there is no cure for a hangover. The sure way to beat those post-party blues is time!!

Thanks for writing,

Veronica

Please send your questions to: Ask Veronica c/o The Crusader, Box 32A.

Hungover and Helpless

If you are between the ages of 18 and 40 and experience severe mood swings, depression and irritability in the week before your period, you may be eligible to participate in a research study for the treatment of Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder.

If you are interested, please call Jesse at 508-334-7352 for more information. Woman’s Program, Center for Psychopharmacologic Research and Treatment

UMass Memorial