

Starkville group's plays make for entertaining evening

By SHEP MONTGOMERY
Starkville Daily News

Thursday's dress rehearsal of "The Gift of the Magi" and "The York Nativity Play" by Starkville Community Theatre were a delight to watch.

The amateurs of the group, which have been rehearsing for the play for a number of weeks, have done a superb job of delivery and presentation of both plays, bringing out the Christmas message.

"The Magi" is an Anne Coulter Martens adaptation of the classic O. Henry short story.

In the "Magi", Della and Jim, portrayed by Amy Tourne and Ryan Lamar, are a couple determined to buy each other the best gifts possible, was a touching dramatization of the age-old triumph-over-materialism story made interestingly relevant in today's tough recessionary times.

Tourne executed a flawless performance of Della, torn by her emo-

tions to please her husband with gifts.

Both shows are directed by Donna Luther-Wright with the help of Les Beaver as technical director and Stephen Cunnetto as assistant director.

"The York Nativity Play" is a modern version of the classic nativity play. Cunnetto provides witty and interesting comments throughout the story, telling how it has been told throughout the ages.

Krista D. Burchfield does a superb job of playing Mary in the cast, which presents the story of

Jesus's birth using a series of unorthodox interpretations of characters.

John Vinicki plays a devious Herod that brings up comparisons of today's most devious Wall Street robber barons, along with a bevy of couriers played by Michael Goree, Holly Hunter, Rachel Price, with Laura Croft and Heidi Gluesing as Herod's slaves.

A trio of "modern-day cow-

In The Audience

Page 6 • Friday, December 6, 1991



boys" (Mark Draffen, Jerry Outlaw, S. Joe Brockway), alias wise men, rounds out the production.

Both plays will be presented by the SCT on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 and 8 p.m. There will also be a matinee Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m.

All shows will be held at the University Theatre in McComas Hall on the Mississippi State University campus. Tickets are available for all performances and may be bought at the door.

Terry Coleman/SDN

Ryan Lamar (from l), as Joseph; Krista D. Bruchfield, as Mary; Elizabeth Aldrich, as the Messenger Angel; and Erin Steckie, as an angel, are part of the cast of the "York Nativity Play" presented by the Starkville Community Theatre.