THEATER REVIEW

# Dramashop presents *One Acts*

## MIT troupe continues 56-year old tradition

**By Annia Pan and Grace Young**
*STAFF WRITERS*

Last weekend MIT Dramashop continued a 56-year tradition, presenting one-act plays performed and directed by students. The night included four short plays, ranging from a slightly morbid tale of death and beauty to a comedy/drama between a hobo and an affluent screenplay writer. We walked away entertained, amused, and thoroughly impressed by our theatrically inclined peers.

*The Master Poisoner*, directed by Klaudia Leja '14, opened the night. A neurotic apothecary (Tughral A.A. Ali G) and his assistant (Justin T. White '15) brew a dangerous concoction in an attempt to master death. The poor victim of their schemes (Sara E. Volz '17) is a disfigured woman, whom the poison transforms into a half-demon, half-goddess. Volz plays the demanding role extraordinarily well. At first a timid cripple, she transforms into a seductress overcome by spasms of evil, shouting at her poisoners in a deep, threatening voice. Her character exemplifies the dangers of toying with death; her violent mood swings keep the audience at the edge of their seats.

Set in mid-20th century Texas, *Hello Out There*, directed by Hrant Gharibyan '14, depicts the fast moving relationship between a jailed young man (Paul E. Kreiner '14) and a young woman working as a cook in the prison (Anna L. Waldo '14). Although confined to his jail cell, the smooth-talking young man captures the heart of the innocent cook. The two share their tales of loneliness, aspiration, and desperation. The man appears intelligent and quick-witted, if not for the compulsive way he repeats the phrase "Hello out there" to the distance. The audience comes to empathize with both characters. However, their situation, already desperate, takes a violent turn when the man's jealous enemy storms the jail, murdering him. Heartbroken, the jail worker finds herself alone in the prison cell, uttering "Hello out there" as he once did. Rich with subtleties, the intensely emotional play makes the next act a welcome comedic relief.

*Riverside Drive*, directed by Bruno D. Tambasco '15, portrays an encounter between a screenplay writer (Rishabh Bhargava '15) and his psychopathic stalker (Zoe R. Sheinkopf '17) at a riverside park. The sound of rushing river water pervades the scene, setting a calming tone to their otherwise uncomfortable confrontation. Clad in a tweed suit, the writer is waiting apprehensively for his mistress when he meets the stalker, Fran. She accuses him of stealing her idea for one of his screenplays. Repulsed by her appearance and apparent insanity, the writer backs away, but her passionate speech slowly degrades his standoffish attitude, and the two develop an unlikely connection. Fran helps him think through his problems with his wife and mistress, but ultimately takes the situation into her own hands, literally, strangling the unfortunate mistress. Sheinkopf played the challenging role to perfection, mesmerizing the audience with her threatening and murderous, yet somehow endearing, character.

Between the plays, we're kept amused by the banter between a young couple, Ben and Anne (Illan F. Halpern '14 and Sarine G. Shahmirian '14), walking through the audience. Their quarrel about their home's cleanliness turns into a broader discussion about the issues in their relationship. The skit touches on the themes of loneliness and relationship struggles present in the main acts.

Overall the show was thrilling, thought-provoking, and thoroughly entertaining, albeit somewhat morbid. Based on this performance, Dramashop's spring plays will certainly be something to look forward to.

***One Acts***

**MIT Dramashop**

**Directed by Klaudia Leja, Hrant Gharibyan, and Bruno Tambasco**

**Kresge Little Theater**

**Nov. 7–9, 2013**

EURAH J. KO

**Poisoners (Justin T. White '15 and Tughral Amir Turab Ali G) feed their victim (Sara E. Volz '17)** a deadly concoction in *The Master Poisoner*, directed by Klaudia Leja '14.

EURAH J. KO

**A psychopathic homeless woman (Zoe R. Sheinkopf '17) and a screenplay writer (Rishabh Bhargava '15)** meet under unlikely circumstances in *Riverside Drive*, directed by Bruno D. Tambasco '15.

EURAH J. KO

**A jail worker (Anna L. Waldo '14) becomes a prisoner** in *Hello Out There*, directed by Hrant Gharibyan '14.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Finding Taiwan in Allston

## Authentic fried steam buns, pineapple chicken, and more

**Jojo Taipei**

**103 Brighton Ave, Allston**

**Monday – Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 11 p.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

**By Rex Lam**
*STAFF WRITER*

I was really happy when I first heard that the Boston West Saferide had changed its route. It meant that it would be much easier to get to Allston, the liveliest hub of Asian restaurants in the area. Unlike Chinatown, where the majority of places serve Cantonese or Taiwanese cuisine, Allston is a true melting pot of various Asian cuisines. If you are craving Asian food but do not know exactly what you want, I suggest that you just hop on the Boston West and explore what Allston has to offer.

One of the most notable restaurants there is Jojo Taipei, which you may have heard of since it is a popular choice for on-campus catering. I went there on a Friday night, and the place was packed. I ended up waiting for about 40 minutes before being seated, but I was very impressed with how the staff handled the large crowd. I noticed that it was standard practice for parties waiting in line to place their orders so that they would get their dishes immediately when the table was ready. By the time I decided what dishes to order, the wait was almost over. It also helped that the restaurant had a warm and homey décor, and was small enough that I could see everyone as I stood by the counter.

Known for being one of the more authentic Taiwanese restaurants in Boston, Jojo Taipei offers a large selection of traditional dishes. Whether you are trying Taiwanese food for the first time, or longing for food your parents make at home, this place should be a safe choice.

For appetizers, I ordered fried steam buns and a pancake with scallions and roasted beef. Both were absolutely amazing. The steam buns were golden, layered, crispy on the outside, and soft on the inside. It was obvious that a lot of effort was put into making them. I was expecting a letdown after the steam buns, but the pancake was equally tasty, and much more than a standard scallion pancake.

A Chinese dinner rarely feels complete unless you have rice or noodles, so I also ordered wonton noodle soup and stewed minced pork over rice. I was struck by the strong taste of sesame oil in the noodle soup.

REX LAM—THE TECH

**Jojo Taipei, a Taiwanese restaurant** in Allston.

Otherwise, the noodles and the wontons were good but not extraordinary. On the other hand, I loved the minced pork rice, which has enough flavor to eat by itself, but is also light enough to eat with heavier dishes.

Finally, I had Ma Po tofu and pineapple crispy chicken. The former is a popular spicy tofu dish. As someone who cannot handle extremely spicy food, I ordered the mild version and found it to be delicious. If you are used to challenging your taste buds, I recommend the normal version, which I hear is very spicy. In stark contrast to the tofu, the chicken was sweet and sour. Although I would say that "crispy" is a misnomer, I enjoyed the popcorn-sized pieces of chicken and the refreshing taste of pineapples.

All in all, Jojo Taipei offers a variety of very high-quality Taiwanese dishes. In particular, the fried steam buns and the pancake were some of the best appetizers I have had. Furthermore, although the wait can be long during peak hours, the waiters do not rush you through your dinner, so you can enjoy your time with friends. One last thing — they offer a 10 percent discount if you pay in cash. I did that and left with literally no money in my wallet, but no regrets.