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Rape of *The Hobbit*

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Rape of *The Hobbit*

Abstract

The Hobbit. Dramatic production.

Additional Keywords

Review; The Hobbit; Drama; Production

Rape of The Hobbit

Come to Middle Earth - An Original Musical
reported and reviewed by Fred Brenion

As most members of The Mythopoeic Society probably know by now, a musical play has been touring the Southern California area, based on The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien. This play, entitled "Come to Middle Earth," was produced and directed by Fred and Don Bluth. It and others are sponsored by the various P.T.A.'s which are in affiliation with the Junior programs of California, and are created for an audience, ages 6 to 13.

I attended the performance at Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall on January 18th at 1:30 p.m. After buying my ticket, I made my way into Barnum Hall and took a seat in the Balcony, little knowing what was to come.

The play was sup-
Hobbit, but there were
between the book and the
the Dwarves, the Elves,
most of the other char-
is how the story went.
who took us down to
the land of the hobbits.
only scenery is a giant-
time covers of The Lord
hobbits, known as Poke,
look or act like hobbits
hobbits looked or acted.
about the "Now Genera-
hobbit known as Phoebe.
to her, asking her to be
nounces that she loves
your hero and mine, Bilbo
carrying some butterflies
butterflies it seems).
then comes the big news:
half wolf) have stolen
that the hobbits had
used it for good. The
Hobbits, want to use it
(stress the E for effect). Everyone leaves the stage except Bilbo. Gandaulf
then comes in and asks if Bilbo would like to get the Ring back. Bilbo declines
on the ground that he is not the hero type. He then gets a tour of his mind
to show him all his fears are all in his head. Once he gets into his mind (the
play form this point is a bit confusing) he meets four weird characters know as
Flip, Aphrodite, and butterflies 1 and 2. I am not sure what they all represent,
something sinister I think. I was told that butterflies are used as a symbol
for marijuana, among other things. He has a few adventures in his brain. At
one point Aphrodite and the butterflies try to seduce him (h'mm). This whole
episode was as if Bilbo was on a trip. He soon gets out of there and meets
the wargs and their King called Voulfgone, who has the Ring. They then capture



pose to be based on The
hardly any similarities
play. The play left out
Smaug, Beorn, Gollum and
acters of The Hobbit. This
First came Gandaulf (sic)
Middle of the Earth, to
Now opens the curtain, the
mural based on the Ballen-
Of The Rings. Enter three
Put, and Scratch. They didn't
of least the way I thought
They came out with a song
tion." Then came a girl
Poke, Put and Scratch sing
their girl, but she an-
- prepare yourself for this-
Baggins. Bilbo comes in,
(Bilbo has this thing for
They all talk together,
the Wargs (half man and
the magic Ring! It seems
ownership over the Ring and
Wargs, Arch-Enemies of the
for the power of Evil
continued on p. 48

something you have been accustomed to all your life...". And finally, "... how queer, thought the King,... that a thing which makes one person laugh should make another scream and shiver."

... Randall Kuhl

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED:

Regrettably, we received the following Ballantine Adult Fantasy books too late to be able to review them for this issue of Mythlore:
 Peter S. Beagle, The Last Unicorn
 Peter S. Beagle, A Fine and Private Place
 Both are \$0.95 paperbacks.

THE RAPE OF THE HOBBIT, continued from page 44

Bilbo. The people in Bilbo's mind come by and everybody sings a song. Then Bilbo seizes the Ring and they all have a merry chase scene. Bilbo soon realizes that all these things are happening in his mind. So Bilbo with the power of his mind, gets rid of his adversaries, goes home a hero, puts the Ring on Phoebe's finger, and he is known as the Lord of the Ring(s). The end at last!

Now that we are all thoroughly sick, I for one, would like to know what should be done about plays like this. I'm not sure but I think to put on a play based on the book you would have to have the rights from the publishers to do such a project. If this is so, then the publishers should see to it that the thing does not get out of hand. There may be other solutions. Any ideas on Tolkien based plays should be sent to such interested organizations such as the Tolkien Society of America and The Mythopoeic Society. I am very disappointed in this play. It's really a shame because a good play could do so much in bringing Tolkien to the greater public. Let us hope the future will produce some plays that will capture the true Tolkien flavor.

