

17 JUL 1970

Play's hippie cult expresses freedom

JOHN BOWEN'S modern adaptation of "The Bacchae of Euripides," began a week's run at the Questors Theatre, Mattock Lane, on Saturday.

The play, "The Disorderly Women," is presented by the Questors Student Group.

It follows the original very closely, though playwright John Bowen has made one significant change: the women are now modern-day hippies who eat a type of mushroom with L.S.D. properties.

CONFLICT

The play's basic conflict is, on the one hand, between Pentheus, played by John Wilson, and his ministers, who believe in a rational, stable society where the individual is free to do what he likes as long as he does not go to excess and remains within the law, and Dionysus, played by Sebastian Verghese; and the women, on the other hand, who believe in the total freedom of the individual — that is, pure instinctive behaviour.

Bowen himself, describes the play as a "tragic story about a good man . . . destroyed by . . . the fatal flaw in his own nature . . . his refusal to accept the imperfection of man, his denial both in himself and others of what is instinctive, irrational, irresponsible, selfish and destructive."

He uses the hippie cult

as an equivalent that both fits the Bacchic legend and is a recognisable part of our own world.

The decision as to whether the play is pro-or anti-drugs (or instinctive behaviour to be more precise) is left to the individual playgoer to decide.

D.W.

Disorderly women in Mattock Lane

THE Questors Student Group are presenting "The Disorderly Women" by John Bowen at their theatre in Mattock Lane, Ealing, on July 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18, at 7.45 p.m.

The play is a re-working in modern times of "The Bacchae of Euripides". Bowen, in some instances, follows his original very closely, but he has made one significant change: the women are now modern-day hippies who eat a type of mushroom with L.S.D. properties.

The basic conflict in the play is between Pentheus and his Ministers on the one hand, who believe in a rational, stable society, where the individual is free to do what he likes as long as he does not go to

excess and remains within the law; and Dionysus and the women on the other, who believe in the total freedom of the individual — that is pure, instinctive behaviour.

Wafer-bread box in memory

MRS. Daisy Smeed has presented All Saints Church, South Acton, with a silver wafer-bread box for use at The Holy Communion, in memory of her sister Emma Beebe, who died on July 11, a year ago.

The gift has been suitably inscribed and will be blessed and put into use on the Sunday nearest that anniversary.

Ruislip Weekly Post

- 8 JUL 1970

THE Questors Student Group presentation from July 11 to 18 is of 'The Disorderly Women', by John Bowen.

Staged at the theatre at Mattock Lane, Ealing, the play commences at 7.45 on each evening. * (no performance on July 13 or 16).

The play is a re-working in modern times of The Bacchae of Euripides. Bowen, in some instances, follows his original very closely, but he has made one significant change: the women are now modern-day hippies who eat a type of mushroom with LSD properties.

EXTRACT FROM

Brentford Times

- 2 JUL 1970

AN OLD TALE TOLD ANEW

AN updated version of "The Bacchae" by Euripides, in which the women are seen as drug-taking hippies, opens at the Questors theatre in Ealing next week.

Playwright John Bowen uses the hippie cult as an analogy of the Bacchic legend.

He describes the original as "a tragic story about a good man destroyed by the fatal flaw in his own nature—a refusal to accept man's imperfection."

The basic conflict in the play is between Pentheus and his ministers, who believe in a rational society where the individual is free to do what he likes provided he remains within the law, and Dionysus and the women, who believe in total freedom of the individual.

Questors

GENERAL PRESS CUTTING ASSOCIATION Ltd

88 CHANCERY LANE, LONDON W C 2

EXTRACT FROM

HARROW OBSERVER

- 3 JUL 1970

'THE DISORDERLY WOMEN'

The Questors Student Group is to present "The Disorderly Women" at the Questors Theatre, Ealing, on July 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 and 18.

The play is a re-working, in modern times, of

"The Bacchae" of Euripides. In some instances the playwright John Bowen follows the original very closely — but the women are modern day hippies who eat a type of mushroom with LSD properties.