



Mark Dambler • the paper

Three Mimes and a Mummer

Mimes Working On It

By Gayle Taylor

If you had the dreaded post-midterm or pre-final blues during November, you definitely could have picked up your spirits by attending a series of workshops conducted by Fordham's theatrical company, The Mimes and Mummers.

This series of six free workshops about various techniques of production in the theatre were open to all members of the Fordham community. Meeting generally on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and some Saturdays, the workshops focused on topics including: sound production, stage managing, organizational skills, production design and electricianing.

According to the Mimes and Mummers president, Kathy Phillips (FC '83) the goal of these workshops was "to gain better technical knowledge, organizational methods and practical techniques" within the theatrical world.

Many students may have believed that the workshops would have only been beneficial to those participating in the theatre. This probably was the justification for the low attendance (10-15 people) at most of the workshops. On the contrary, these workshops were extremely informative and could have benefited in providing even for those not involved in the theatre.

The workshops were conducted by a professional sound director Neile Weissman from "Stagecraft Sound Systems", who frequently works with other

theatre groups and directors. Weissman conducted the workshops in a very relaxed manner and was extremely receptive to all questions.

One particular workshop focused on the sound system in Collins Auditorium, where the Mimes and Mummers usually perform. Just recently, the Mimes and Mummers received a solid state amplifier, which should greatly improve the dimension of sound during productions.

Weissman often used the students' participation to demonstrate various concepts in sound projection, with an emphasis on microphone projection.

Although the attendance at the workshops attended was small, Miss Phillips stated that Mimes & Mummers did conquer another of their goals—to attract new members. Miss Phillips thought that the attendance was low because many people didn't see or pay attention to the signs advertising the workshops. This again demonstrates the lack of attention granted to some of the most informative activities on the Fordham campus.

As for the future of the Mimes & Mummers? Miss Phillips hopes to have more practical technical workshops such as these. They are definitely worthwhile, whether or not you are involved in the theatre—just to see what goes on "behind the scenes" of a play. I would hope that many more people—even those not affiliated with the theatre—will take advantage of these workshops. ■