

All that's happening in our fabulous world of life and leisure.

G A I L E T Y

IN VIEW

With Amtheyst

Behold: distraction, frenzy, and amazement!

—CASSANDRA

SHAKESPEARE'S TROILUS AND CRESSIDA

Playing through July 24 in repertory, at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery is perhaps one of the most exciting productions this writer has ever encountered. Kent Gash the director of *Troilus and Cressida* has become the new Associate Artistic Director of ASF and the master has been seen under a new light! He is a proud graduate of the Carnegie-Melton University Department of Drama and the UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television. He is a noted director, choreographer both in New York and in various regional productions.

This production has given us a taste of the modern while dealing with the very marrow of all existence. We see love. We see war.

We see passion. We realize that the play evolves around humans and the events of our lives. It evolves around the constant battle we all face to try to balance the passions of life with reason. The magnificent language that Shakespeare gives us comforts us but it does not give us answers. There are no answers to be found. Nevertheless, what is found is a stage alive and in blaze with the sounds of music, the intense feel of the human spirit, humor, action, and a boundless magic.

The actors are of special notice. The chemistry between Ray Chambers and Sam Wellington on stage alone is awesome. It defies all boundaries. They are natural and totally believable as the Greek Commander, Achilles, and his male lover Patroclus. All the actors of this production worked as a unit to bring about the success of the production. All the actors are highly talented. However, Chambers and Wellington hold the spirit, the very passion of the production in their hands. The feel of sexuality and love they portray burns inside our souls and thoughts even after leaving the theatre.

Troilus and Cressida is a masterpiece production and this writer urges you to experience for yourself. This production has made giant steps for our community and it should be rewarded with our attendance and financial support. Call 271-5353 (locally) or 1-800-841-4ASE (4273) today for reservations to this "premiere" production of *Troilus and Cressida*.



Kent Gash

ASF 2000

The Future of Theatre in the South.

The ASF will present *Twelfth Night* or *Bard to the Bone*, its the annual benefit for Montgomery AIDS Outreach on Monday, July 12 at 7:30 in the Octagon of the Carolyn Blount Theatre. The performance, featuring ASF company members, will be preceded by a live and a silent auction at 6:30p.m. followed by a reception catered by area restaurants.

All company members will donate their time and services free of charge. Tickets for this event are twenty dollars.