

# 'An Enemy of the People'

by Lisa M. Jennis

On the small stage a man stands alone with his family while an angry mob, stirred up by the man's brother, thunderously chants, "ENEMY! ENEMY!" in unison. This was one of the moving scenes from Henrik Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People," performed by KU students April 19-21 and 26-28 in Schaeffer Auditorium's Little Theatre.

The play, based in a small town in the late 19th Century, portrays one man's fight against the authorities and a conservative town when he discovers that the springs which the town had built to cure the sick and bring in much-needed revenue are polluted. Although set in the 19th Century, the play was relevant to 20th-Century problems including the issue of nuclear waste.

Senior Mark Domyan portrayed Dr. Stockman, the man who must stand alone and face the angry mob because of his unrelenting fight for truth. This was Domyan's first KU performance and many wonder why he waited so long to perform. His portrayal of Stockman was convincing to say the least.

Peter Stockman, the sinister mayor, was convincingly played by Thomas Becker, a sophomore English major. Through Becker's portrayal, the audience could not help but leave the theatre hating Stockman and everything he represented.

Sandy Lee Stull, a senior Speech/Theatre major, played Catherine Stockman, wife of Dr. Stockman. Catherine's father, Morton Kill, was played by sophomore Theatre major Bill Wilson. Wilson gave a flawless performance.

Cynthia McClure, portraying Petra Stockman, as well as Peggy Mulligan and Kimberly Bender, who played the younger Stockman children Marta and Ellie, respectively, all gave fine performances. The only true friend of the Stockman's, Captain Horster, was smartly played by David Romano.

The newspaper men, ex-friends of Dr. Stockman and henchmen of the mayor, Aslaksen (Frank Taibi), Hovstad (Rob Dorfman), and Billings (Michael M.H. Reed), were men to be despised. All actors did a fine job with their roles.

The townspeople (Merry Mesaros, Renee Mull, Christine Reber, Kyle Traylor, Vince Cabana, Cindy Cunard, David Hawk, Peggy Mulligan, and Kimberly Bender) were convincing as an angry mob, as was Charles Horrocks, Jr. as the drunk.

Director Roberta Crisson did an outstanding job along with Angela Johnson, stage manager, and Lynne Richardson, assistant stage manager. All in all, crew heads and members included, the show ran smoothly and professionally.