

This Month In CALIFORNIA

PATIENCE ****

by T.E. Foreman, Willard Manus

(Comic operetta by Gilbert & Sullivan; directed by Maryedith Burrell) What a joy to hear witty, intelligent music and lyrics again -- and to be reminded just how delightful Gilbert & Sullivan can be, even in this age of cynicism and despair. Thanks to the Antaeus Company, a troupe which hopes to become L.A.'s first permanent resident classical ensemble, local theatregoers can enjoy an operetta like *Patience* again. First produced back in 1881 by D'Oyle Carte and a music-hall staple for nearly a hundred years, *Patience* is rarely seen in professional venues these days, not only because of changing tastes but because it takes such style and flair to bring it off well. Working on the small stage of the Ford ampitheatre and on a limited budget -- though costumes and props were not slighted -- Antaeus surmounts all challenges and handicaps, thanks to Maryedith Burrell's surehanded direction and to the cast's splendid work. A spoof of the Oscar Wilde era of foppish, art-for-art's sake romanticism, *Patience's* eponymous heroine is a naive, pretty milkmaid (Emily Chase) who is startled to learn from the ladies and maidens of the dukedom that love is good for you. These refined womenfolk have learned their credo from a couple of poets, one "fleshly" (Jeremy Lawrence), the other "idyllic" (John Apicella). The amorous waters are heated up by the arrival of a platoon of Heavy Dragoon Guards, robust but exceedingly dim chaps, officers included. G & S poke fun at the age in such delectable numbers as "Twenty Love-sick Maidens We," "The Soldiers of Our Queen," "Though to Marry You Would Very Selfish be" and "I'm a Waterloo House Young Man." Chase, Apicella and Lawrence are outstanding, as well as Robert Machray as Colonel Calverly, Anne Gee Byrd as Lady Jane, Nike Doucas as Lady Angela and Anna Mathias as Lady Saphir. ~Rev 11/98~ Op: 11/7/98 To 12/20/98

===CAST: Jeremy Lawrence, John Apicella, Robert Machray, Stuart W. Howard, Philip Proctor, Larry Braman, Kenneth Danziger, Terry J. Evans, Marcelo Tubert, Melinda Peterson, Anna Mathias, Janelle Steininger, Anee Gee Byrd, Luck Hari, Karen Stone, Cheryl- Tyre Smith, Emily Chase. (Note: show is