



PATIENCE

This Antaeus Company production may not find favor with Savoyard purists, but those who appreciate their Gilbert and Sullivan with tongue planted firmly in cheek will be charmed. Indeed, it is the very archness of this hilarious send-up of British pre-Raphaelite sensibilities that is the chief attraction here. Maryedith Burrell directs with sly appreciation for the vocal shortcomings of her cast, using this detriment, and the substitution of a piano for a full orchestra, to full advantage. Her show is funnier because almost nobody on stage can carry a tune, and because the tinny upright (played ideally by Jan Powell) sends us straight back to music-hall burlesque. John Apicella's introductory slide show should help the historically impaired and amuse those who know a thing or two. The story, such as it is, concerns a milkmaid, Patience (the sweet-voiced Emily Chase), and two poets, Reginald Bunthorne (Jeremy Lawrence) and Archibald Grosvenor (Apicella), who vie for her affections. Lending texture, and some pretty funny moments, are a chorus of rapturous maidens and a company of dragons. The players are, to a man, well cast, but Robert Machray's beefy Colonel Calverley and Anne Gee Byrd's ardent Lady Jane (playing a cardboard cello of her own construction) prove particularly nuanced. John H. Binkley's art-nouveau set design (made of corrugated paper!) and Margaretrose's terrifically fusty costumes complete the delight. John Anson Ford Theater, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd., Hlywd.; Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2 p.m.; thru Dec. 20. (323) 660-8587.

—David Mermelstein

We also recommend: *Adam and Eva Marie*, *Another Part of the Forest*, *The Baby Dance*, *Bad Sex With Bud Kemp*, *Boiler Room*, *Boys' Life*, *Catch a Falling Star*, *Club Disco*, *Crime Scene*, *Dear Mrs. Baker*, *Dinner With Friends*, *Dog Music*, *Elephant Sighs*, *Fosse: A Celebration in Song and Dance*, *George Sand: An Erotic Odyssey in Seven Tableaux*, *Groundlings Hotel and Casino*, *Hair*, *I Know What You Did Last Sunday Show*, *An Ideal Husband*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Impromptoes*, *The J. Keith van Straaten Show*, *The Job*, *Little Foxes*, *Lone Wolf Rhapsody*, *Martini & Olive "On the Rocks,"* *Massacre*, *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Naked Boys Singing!*, *No Place To Be Somebody*, *Nothing's Impossible*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Putting It Together*, *Reckless*, *Saviors and Suspects: Evening Red*, *Scream Queens*, *The Sun Dialogues*, *Tainted Blood*, *Texarkana Waltz*, *Timon of Athens*, *Titantrum*, *Walking the Edge*, *The Water Principle*, *Will Williams*.