

'U' Theater Presents Swashbuckling Bard

★ The twin aims of colorful spectacle and rapid-action story, salted with the immortal humor of that immortal scamp Sir John Falstaff, are achieved brilliantly in Kenneth L. Graham's staging of Shakespeare's "Henry IV," part I, at the University Theatre this week.

This is swashbuckling Shakespeare done with vigor and flourish, with loud and clear vocalization, rich costuming and a lively sense of pageantry in the court and war scenes. The difficulties of a multi-scened chronicle, particularly in a Shakespeare historical play where the plot lines could be easily tangled, have been mastered with rare skill.

The result is a performance that brings vividly to life the long-dead brawling and insurrections of early 15th century England, when the devious Henry IV was fighting off the revolts of the nobles in his realm, and the Henry V-to-be was wasting his time with low companions in taverns.

Among the lowest and most engaging of these companions was the portly Falstaff, played with lumbering gait and wheezy barkings and mutterings by Philip J. Smith—a marvelously sustained and rounded portrait of the old rascal. "Henry IV" stands or falls on the merits of its Falstaff, and this performance certainly the standing variety by reason of Smith's contribution.

Of hardly less importance are the spirit and bravado shown in the Hotspur role, this one done with flourish and fury by Lowell V. Battley. Prince Hal, the royal wastrel who finally swears off his low reveling, is an adroit characterization in the hands of Richard D. Halvorson, while the king himself, Henry IV, has fine authority in Paul Peterson's performance.

There's a large cast, with many a sharp characterization sprinkled through it, but the success and individual flavor of the production owes almost as much to the costuming, the functional scene design and the musical effects as it does to the actors themselves. The music, composed and directed by Lothar Klein, was particularly evocative of the martial and courtly locales in its strident trumpet fanfares and beating of drums. Performances continue nightly through the week.

THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR

Into which has been incorporated the Minneapolis Journal

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL

MINNESOTA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, IOWA, WISCONSIN		ALL OTHER STATES	
Morning Tribune30c per week	Morning Tribune35c per week
Evening Star30c per week	Evening Star35c per week
Sunday Tribune20c per week	Sunday Tribune25c per week

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all the local news printed in this newspaper as well as all AP news dispatches.

A Bureau of Accuracy and Fair Play, organized to assure full and prompt attention to every complaint, is maintained by the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. It is open every day except Sunday from 7 a.m. until midnight, to deal courteously with any person who feels that he or she has not been justly treated in any news story or business dealing involving the newspapers. The bureau is located on the third floor of the Star and Tribune building. Complaints may be made in person or by calling Atlantic 3111.