

Pippin Reigns at Plains

In March of its ninth season, the Repertory Theatre Group staged its most visually ambitious production with the musical production, "Pippin." In a benefit rehearsal performance for area senior citizens, followed by two evening performances, the cast successfully mixed magical illusion, sleight-of-hand, historical allegory, imaginative lighting and staging, and a popular Broadway score, to produce a memorable theatre experience at SPFHS.

A cast of nearly 50 students was led by Sabrina Prielaida and Eric Slaten as the Leading Players, Tom Graves as King Charlemagne, and Eric Erb and Jim Berry in the title role as Pippin, Charlemagne's eldest son. Senior John Bischoff directed the production with the valuable assistance of Seniors Andy Novick, instrumental music director, and Chris Terchek, choreographer.

The "message" of "Pippin" is easily understood: "be yourself and enjoy life to its fullest degree; the risks of change may be less acceptable than the apparent banality of one's present existence."

There was little risk that this production of "Pippin" would not be a critical success. By popular demand, and sponsored by the Board of Education and the Scotch Plains Cultural Arts Committee, the production was revived in June with an outdoor performance on the Scotch Plains Village Green attended by several hundred members of our school and community.

"Long Live The King!" Eric Erb as Pippin, flanked by the Leading Players, Eric Slaten and Sabrina Prielaida.



Gail Yorgan and her "entourage," L-R: Craig Dill, Mark Winey, Jeff Klein, Ted Schirm, and Jim Berry.

For a good mime, call Patti Kravitz.

