

MEDIA RELEASE FOR SUN.ERGOS **TESTIMONIAL FOR 'SHAKESPEARE'**



Over forty years I have seen many one-man Shakespeare recitals, often organized on the convenient structure of Jaques' speech on the Ages of Man. Robert Greenwood's Shakespeare program for Sun.Ergos, which I saw in February, 2003, (at Kimball Union Academy) was unusually capacious in its range and wonderfully effective in its performance.

Mr. Greenwood delivers not only monologues but also major scenes for two actors. The spectrum of character portrayed – and thus the variety of identification demanded of himself by Mr. Greenwood and given to his audience – is very large. His central voice, the voice of Jaques and perhaps Shakespeare, is that of an observant, wise, tolerant middle-aged man, who has seen a lot and is surprised by nothing, who grieves over some of the things he has seen, but is also more than a little amused at the spectacle of his life. During the evening this voice expands into many registers of youth and of maturity, of both sexes, and of many degrees of intensity and relaxation. It is a chamber orchestra worthy of Shakespeare's own overflowing abundance.

The production has a simplicity and directness that allows total focus on the words and the feelings, which of course is where the focus belongs. With a well-chosen prop or an inventive change of posture, Mr. Greenwood moves from Launce rebuking his incontinent dog to Lady Macbeth meditating murder. The whole program constitutes an arresting performance for a theatre audience, and a valuable demonstration for students of Shakespeare.

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