

Fall 10-17-1991

Mary Stuart postcard

Department of Theatre, Florida International University

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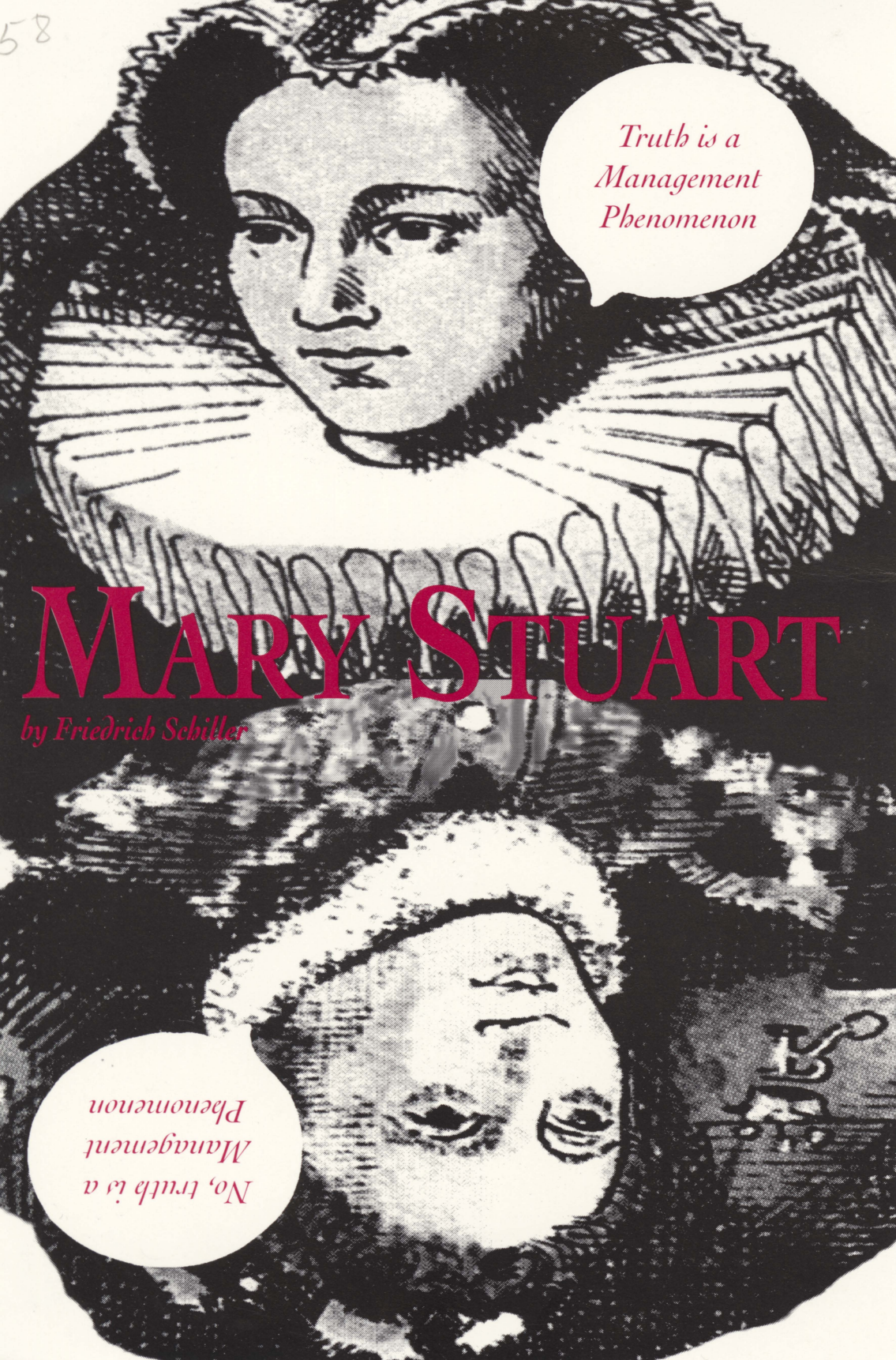
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*Truth is a
Management
Phenomenon*

MARY STUART

by Friedrich Schiller

*No, truth is a
Management
Phenomenon*

FIU Department of Theatre & Dance presents...

MARY STUART

by Friedrich Schiller; adaptation by Stephen Spender

"One way to write a postmodern novel, according to John Updike, is to adopt the texture of fable with... 'hidden geometry'." FIU Theatre director Mary Ellen O'Brien treats the 16th century political battle between the supporters of Mary Stuart of Scotland and Elizabeth I of England in their title claims to the British monarchy as a fable for the 20th century. Applying a postmodern, European directorial approach which depicts the comic realities as well as the tragic consequences of politicians' conspiracies and cover-ups of their maneuvers to promote and secure national interests, the director and designers add 20th century concerns to Friedrich Schiller's drama.

This directorial concept based on Stephen Spender's adaptation of Schiller's MARIA STUART exposes the "hidden geometry" of meanings that reflect upon our modern times. As in Schiller's 18th century world, truth in the 20th century often is fouled by the complications of political compromises and realities. Appearances manufactured by politicians, filmmakers, major news networks and local "bootstrap" strategists exert terroristic pressure on the morality of truth. Truth becomes a management phenomenon.

One defense against the substitution of "appearances" for truth is a rigorous skepticism towards the veracity of any political, social or economic "master narrative," as it moves towards attracting a universal consensus. The FIU Theatre production of MARY STUART shatters the audience's expectations, or consensus, of how 18th century romantic drama should be treated onstage, and by doing so, intends to challenge the veracity of other societal "meta-narratives."

—Mary Ellen O'Brien

Directed by Mary Ellen O'Brien, scene and light design by Zak Herring, costume design by Marilyn Skow, technical direction by Richard Gamble.

Performance Dates: October 17-20 and October 24-27. Sunday Performances on October 20 and 27 will be 2 p.m. matinees. All other performances are at 8 p.m.

Theatre: University Theatre, VH 100, University Park, Miami.

Tickets: General Admission: \$8, FIU Students: \$2, Students & Senior Citizens: \$6.

For reservations and information, call 348-2895, Mon. - Fri., 9 to 5.

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