

Drama Director Says Theatre Future Bright, Believes Television Can't Replace Stage

"The American theatre is growing faster today than ever before," Prof. Arthur C. Cloetingh cleared up a question as he turned in his swivel chair.

"Take ANTA—the American National Theatre Association—the most influential theatre group in the nation today. They've been granted a charter by Congress, the only group with such recognition. This year they've been campaigning for 20 million dollars and next year plan to ask Congress for larger amounts in subsidies."

"Another powerful group is the National Theatre Conference endowed by the Rockefeller Foundation with \$75,000 a year. They award \$3000 a year—for instance—to a promising young playwright. With that money he can devote his entire time to writing."

The head of the dramatics department leaned back in his chair. "This year the Conference also held tryouts in New York for college grads who wanted to act, and Claire Cohen, a former Player, placed among the winners. She goes into rehearsal on July 21."

As a Board member of both of these important groups, Mr. Cloetingh is able to help Penn State graduates who seek careers in dramatics.

"Then there's the increase of professional and semi-pro groups that function far from Broadway. In Philly, for instance, there's about 200 such groups that act for a living or pay their directors

John E. Nicholas, professor of agricultural engineering at the College, received the technical paper award of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers recently. The award was given in recognition of an outstanding paper contributed to the May 1946 issue of "Agricultural Engineering."

and scene designers. There's about 1000 in the state—maybe more," Mr. Cloetingh was interrupted by his secretary, and later resumed his discussion.

"The theatre can never be replaced," he said. "A good play is a moving human document, a view of life and real-live people that sets up an intimacy with the audience."

I doubt if television will ever transmit theatre since it's so limited in the distance it can be sent. The movies and radio are second-hand. It's like a choice between a concert or a recording."

Mr. Cloetingh blew smoke and brought the topic to home ground. "College dramatics groups have

increased and become a necessary extra-curricular activity. They give students a chance to learn by doing, and the instructors are able to experiment.

"A play becomes a personal thing in a director's hands, and I choose to regard a play as an equal medium of expression for director and author. It's like a symphony who can follow the score to a "t" or interpret the music as he sees fit."

Putting out his cigarette, Mr. Cloetingh expressed his pleasure with his Players' work and anticipation of future productions. He looked at his watch, excused himself, and left for a rehearsal of the Little Theatre group.

Critic Says—Yaysnoffs Lack Style

By BENNETT L. FAIRORTH.

The twin keyboard performance of the Yaysnoff sisters in last Thursday's opening Artists' Course recital lacked clearly-defined and the sincere understanding style that characterize first-rate musical interpretations.

The sisters' adaptations for duopianos were not smooth or definite and made the most of loud chords. In their playing, they did not feel the music, did not translate a genuine enthusiasm or appreciation, did not co-ordinate their individual parts.

On the meritorious side, their own composition "Tahong" though unoriginal and flat, was executed with confidence. Prokofieff's

March flowed smoothly with restrained gusto.

Backstage after the recital, the sisters were sincerely enthusiastic and cheerful, speaking in a British accent.

Recalling their careers, Iris, the blonde sister, told of starting to play at three years of age, "a disease from the beginning." Their parents were not musicians but an uncle on their mother's side is the famous composer Wieniawski.

According to Iris, they came to America in 1939 and have played with the Cleveland, Detroit, and NBC Symphony Orchestras. June outlined plans for a winter tour of Texas, Iowa, and other sections of the West.

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