

Five O'clock Theater Opens Season Today

By CHIZ MATHIAS

When the chimes in the tower of Old Main strike five every Tuesday during the spring semester, the curtain will be rising promptly on another original one-act play being "premiered" in the basement at the Five O'clock Theater.

Aspiring playwrights do mental flips in the wings and go through the same agonizing "first night jitters" experienced by their professional brothers, while actors wander about the stage with script in hand writhing in overwhelming tragedy or exchanging a barrage of wit.

With today's performance of "Three Men in a Tub," by George Anderson, Five O'clock Theater will celebrate its fifth consecutive season. The brain-child of Warren S. Smith, associate professor of dramatics, the theater was founded in 1949 as a testing ground for beginning playwrights.

Smith conceived the venture while reading over the one-act play scripts prepared in his Dram 421 class. "A good play cannot be fully tested until it is produced and judged by an audience," Smith said. The five o'clock hour was selected for curtain time so students could "catch a bit of the theater on their way home from classes." Most plays run only 20 or 30 minutes and are over in time for students to eat before the College dining halls close.

Opening audiences were receptive and word-of-mouth publicity soon brought out the "Standing Room Only" sign to the 125-seat Little Theater. Plays were presented only during the spring semester because good scripts were usually limited to 12 or 14 plays turned out by the playwrighting class. "When spring fever overcomes the majority of students, audiences usually decline," Smith said, "but the purpose of the theater is not a full house, but a small, objective audience to test the public's reaction to a play."

Three plays produced at the Five O'clock Theater have won honors in the University of North Carolina's Play-Likers contest and have been presented there at the annual drama festivals in March. Another play, "For Old Times' Sake," by Manuel Herbert has been published by Samuel French, Inc.

Performances are open to everyone interested in experimental theater, Smith said. "Plays are not always Pulitzer prize material, and Five O'clock companies do not pretend they are, but they have some dramatic value. Five O'clock is an experimental laboratory to develop this value." Authors are introduced after each performance, and the audience is invited to discuss the merits or demerits of a play with them.

Formerly Five O'clock was run by a volunteer "stock company" of Dram 421 students. This year the Drama department has expanded the theater into a workshop in stagecraft. When a play is selected for production a director is chosen from the direction classes of Professors Kelly Yeaton and Robert D. Reifsnieder. Actors from acting technique classes are selected for the cast. A technician is assigned from an advanced lighting class, and a designer is conscribed from a class in theatrical setting.

This season Five O'clock hopes to include simple sets and costumes. Perhaps if time permits some plays will be recited from memory instead of read script-in-hand, Smith said.

As general manager, Arch Rugh keeps the aspirin bottle handy to meet the headaches of all the "behind the scenes" jobs in show business. On Tuesdays he dashes around like an automaton seeing that the theater is cleaned, all the last minute details are straightened out, and the show is ready to open. In addition he handles publicity for the theater and introduces the author to the audience critics.

Today's bill, "Three Men on a Tub," will star Al Kelson as an earthman who encounters two Martians, Jack Kutz and Ed Rue, aboard a flying saucer. Jolly Oswald will direct the farce. Setting is by Cam Iseman, and George Jason is in charge of lights.

Meeting Date Changed

The Centre County Association for Health and Physical Education, scheduled to meet tomorrow, will meet Feb. 17.

Leonides to Meet

Leonides will hold a special meeting at 6:30 tonight in the second floor lounge of McElwain Hall. Vivian Peterson, president, has requested all representatives to be present.

Former Society, Wire Editors Wed Saturday

Virginia Opoczenski, former society editor of the Daily Collegian, and Leonard Kolasinski, last year's wire editor, were married Saturday morning at St. Hilary's Roman Catholic Church, Washington, Pa.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Opoczenski of Washington, and the groom, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kolasinski of Shamokin.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a gown of imported French chantilly lace over satin. She carried an arm bouquet of white Easter lilies, centered with white orchids.

The bride's sister, Mrs. Quintir Toews, an alumna of the College, was matron of honor. Constance Melvin, eighth semester dramatics major, was maid of honor.

Edward Kolasinski, brother of the groom, was best man, and Albert Sherdon, alumnus of the College, was an usher.

Mrs. Kolasinski was graduated with honors last month. She majored in Spanish and was a member of Mortar Board, senior women's honorary society; Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic honorary society; and Phi Sigma Iota, Romance language honorary society.

Mr. Kolasinski was graduated in June in journalism. He was editor of "Who's in the News at Penn State," managing editor of the Student Handbook, and a member of Sigma Delta Chi, men's professional journalism fraternity.

The couple will reside in New Castle, where Mr. Kolasinski works as a reporter.

Players Hold 2 Workshops At 7 Tonight

Players workshops for two stage crews will begin tonight. Students interested in managing lights will meet at 7 p.m. in the light cage in the basement of Schwab to receive instructions from George Jason, senior manager of lighting.

The advertising workshop will be held at 7 p.m. in the loft of Schwab under the direction of Ruth McSparran.

Joyce Lupton will be in charge of the props workshop at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the basement of Schwab. Applicants for makeup crews will meet with Prim Dieffenferder and Allen Adair at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the makeup room. Frank Baxter will head the workshop in stage sound effects at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Little Theater, basement of Old Main.

Technical workshops will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday in the loft by Bill Nudorf. Patricia Jenkins will instruct the workshop for costumes at 7 p.m. Thursday in the basement of Schwab.

According to Fran Stridinger, players president, volunteers will be required to attend workshop sessions for a three week period to participate on crews for "Aria de Copa" and "A Phoenix Too Frequent," beginning at Center Stage Feb. 27, and the next Schwab productions, "Lute-Song," to be given March 12, 13, and 14.



Miss Shirley Wood Okay Joe?

One of the most beautiful freshmen we've ever seen. We'll eat hats if she doesn't win half a dozen contests while at State.

A dozen roses from Jimmy Wolfe with our compliments.

We're having a gorgeous shoulder drape made of hundreds of soft maribou feathers. For something really different this is truly it.

THE LION STUDIO

With the Crimson Door

Students to Interpret Literature Tonight

The works of Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Irvin Shaw, and Terence Rattigan will be featured in the Reading Hour to be held at 8 tonight in Simmons Hall lounge.

Jerome Feinberg, a sixth semester arts and letters major, will read Charles Dickens' "The Madman's Story." A madman reflects on his life in the Dickens' short story.

Twain's "The Glorious White-washer," the story of Tom Sawyer's psychology in obtaining his friends' help in white-washing a fence, will be read by La Rue Fritz, an eighth semester speech major.

Excerpts from the play "Bury the Dead," by Irwin Shaw, will be read by Sally Lowry, eighth semester speech major. The plot deals with six soldiers who refuse to be buried.

Arthur Rosberg, eighth semester political science major, will read excerpts from Terence Rattigan's "O Mistress Mine," a Broadway hit which starred Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine.

Nancy White, a sixth semester home economics major will be chairman for the reading hour.

The reading hours, sponsored by the Department of Speech, have been held monthly at the College since 1948. The purpose of the reading hours is to provide an outside opportunity for students of Speech 280 and 285 classes to demonstrate their ability in oral interpretation.

Participating students are chosen by the members of the speech classes, and selections are chosen by the students themselves.

The reading hours are open to the public.

The amount of lipstick used each year by American women would paint 40,000 barns bright red.

Tickets Now on Sale For Sweetheart Dance

Tickets are now on sale for the Women's Recreation Association Sweetheart Dance, to be held from 9 to midnight Saturday in White Hall. Tickets, priced at \$1.50 per couple, will be available at the Student Union until noon Saturday.

Jack Jenkins will provide the music for the semi-formal girl-ask-boy dance.

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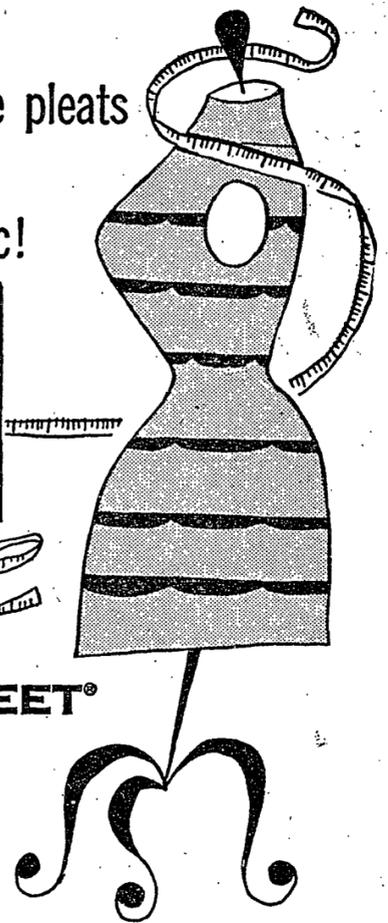
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