

## Off The Cuff Stuff

Last week the Bloomsburg State College Summer Theatre presented an experiment in terror, Ba-Ba-bum-bum. (That was dramatic music.) **Night Must Fall**, a psychological thriller, by Emlyn Williams, was presented both evenings at 8:30 p. m. The play was directed by Mr. Robert Richey, Director of the Theatre at BSC.

Now we come to the important part. Appearing in the role of Danny, the mentally unstable bell-hop, was Robert Salvio. So okay, you don't know who Robert Salvio is. Mr. Salvio recently received a number of awards for his performance on Broadway in **Hamp** last season. He has also made numerous television appearances. Following his appearance at Bloomsburg, Mr. Salvio will return to New York to take over the lead in **Fortune and Men's Eyes**, currently playing at the Actor's Playhouse in Sheridan Square.

I have been serving as understudy to Mr. Salvio for the show. What this means is that I had to learn the lines and blocking for the play, and do the part for the two weeks prior to Salvio's arrival on Campus. Then of course, should anything happen that Mr. Salvio wouldn't be able to do the part (heaven forbid), I would do the role for him.

Now I suppose you think that all understudies have a secret desire that something (nothing too drastic, but something) would happen to the star so that the understudy could go on. I don't harbor any such secret desires. I admit them quite openly.

The day Mr. Salvio arrived on campus everyone was excited. We all tried to act nonchalant, though. "Did you see him yet?" I asked Mr. Richey in Children's Theatre class. "What's he like?"

"Bruce, his bus doesn't arrive until noon; it's only 10:00 a. m."

"Oh," I said dejectedly. At approximately seven minutes thirty seconds after two o'clock that afternoon, the telephone rang in the dorm. Someone called out my name, and I hurried down the hall. "Hello?" I spoke into the receiver.

"Bruce, this is Barb. Mr. Salvio just arrived on campus. I'm in the Players' Office. We just met him."

"What's he like, what's he like?" I tried to sound calm.

"Wow!" Barb replied. "Well now, what's that supposed to mean?" I asked.

"He's cute. Gosh, is he cute!" she replied. "Oh, for heaven's sake," I said discouragingly. It almost mattered

to me whether he was cute or not. "I mean, what's he like, Barb? Is he nice or anything?"

"Well, I only talked to him for about two minutes," she replied. "He said, 'How do you do' in a pretty friendly tone though. We shook hands and everything."

"You mean you touched him!" I asked.

I met him at rehearsal that night. "Bruce, this is Mr. Salvio," Mr. Richey introduced us. "Bruce has been your stand-in for the past two weeks."

"It's okay though," I told him, "I don't hold any grudges or anything." I wanted him to know I was friendly. After watching him perform that night, I went back to my room and read my acting book all over again. I tried to figure out what I had been doing wrong! He was only slightly tremendous. After rehearsal, I was talking to the rest of the cast.

"Wasn't he great!" Lynn said as I stared into space. "Yeah," I said, "great."

"He's so intense." "Yeah," I said, "intense." "I mean you can just believe that he's really the murderer."

"Yeah," I said, "murderer."

"Oh Thad," Lynn said to Thad, who was driving. "Would you mind dropping me off at my house. It's right on your way to Danville."

"Yeah," I said, "Danville." After a few rehearsals, we found out that Rob (that's short for Mr. Salvio) is really almost an ordinary person. As a matter of fact, he even uses the laundromat. Doesn't even have a valet. Will wonders never cease!

Yeah, wonders. Two weeks following Night Must Fall, BSC will be presenting **The Corn Is Green**, directed by M. J. McHale, and starring Shirl Conway. You may remember her from the Nurses television series of a few seasons back. Also, appearing in **The Corn Is Green**, will be that up and coming young actor Donald Hopkins.

Tickets may be obtained by writing or calling The BSC Summer Theatre Office, Bloomsburg State College, Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815. Phone, 784-4660. Extension 223. SEE YA!

**Strawberry Social**  
The Dymond Hollow Methodist Church WSCS will hold a Strawberry and Ice Cream Social on Saturday, July 22 at 7 p.m.

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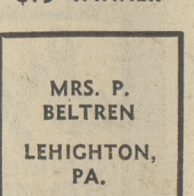
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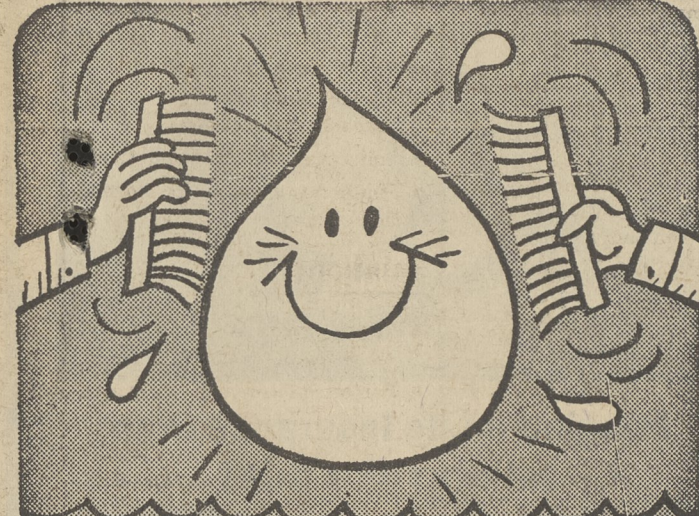
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