

Masks and Faces

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No. 2

Editorial

LITTLE THEATRE SOCIETY has taken the risk of asking me to write an editorial each month for *Masks and Faces*. I say "taken the risk" because this editorial goes from me to the printers, and even my friend Mary Ellen Burgess is not sure just what I'm going to say. This time I want to throw out the word "snob" to whoever wants to pick it up. As a matter of fact the word is not aimed at anyone in particular. It's aimed at the state of the theatre in general in Canada. There are many people, some of whom, unfortunately have power, who lift the upper lip in a delicate sneer at the word "amateur," when applied to the theatre. Those people are snobs. In my personal dictionary, the word snob means "ignoramus". These people talk about the professional theatre. Where is the professional theatre? Has Regina seen a professional show since Ethel Barrymore (and company) did "Whiteoaks" here? Evidently the road shows won't take a chance on us. But the amateurs take a chance, and often lose money doing it. The fact is that our own Darke Hall has seen productions, by amateurs, that would rival anything a professional company could show us. I admit that the professional shows have a serious transportation problem today, with a war on, but they deserted us long before the war started. It's amateurs or nothing, and I say sincerely, give me the amateurs—they're far better sports.

* * *

With that off our chest, how do you like the new set-up of "*Masks and Faces*"? There will be nine issues annually, and everyone is invited to contribute articles, information, and gossip, relative to theatre.

FRED LAIGHT.

Presenting . . .

SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

SINCE the last issue of *Masks and Faces*, rehearsals of Sheridan's glowing old comedy have been going forward merrily, to embody the style manners and mode of its period setting of hooped skirts,

wigs, powder, and patches. Bright scenery, elegant gowns, fans and frippery, laces and velvets and snuff boxes give to the play its outward charm, but intense and graceful acting is requisite to make the play live and sparkle.

SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL

Directed by GEO. A. PALMER

Incidental Music by a String Quartette.

Darke Hall: Nov. 12th and 13th (Students' Night: Nov. 11th)

Curtain: 8.15

Meet the Cast of "School for Scandal"

<i>Lady Sneerwell</i> (President of the Scandalous School)	BESSIE MINTY
<i>Mr. Snake</i> (her hireling scribe)	A. J. HAGGETT
<i>Servant to Lady Sneerwell</i>	KAY YOUNG
<i>Joseph Surface</i> (a hypocritical gentleman, given to expressions of sentiment and morality)	FRED FITTON
<i>Maria</i> (Ward of Sir Peter Teazle)	RUTH DOBRESCU
<i>Mrs. Candour</i>	The scandal-spreading trio { LIL COCKBURN GORDON MCCONECHY CHAS. PARKES
<i>Crabtree</i>	
<i>Sir Benjamin Backbite</i>	
<i>Sir Peter Teazle</i> (now six months married to a light-headed country girl)	LLOYD MEASNER
<i>Rowley</i> (trusted servant of the family)	JOHN UNSWORTH
<i>Lady Teazle</i> (Wife of Sir Peter)	DORIS CORISTINE
<i>Sir Oliver Surface</i> (Uncle to Joseph and Charles)	LESLIE SALISBURY
<i>Moses</i> (a money-lender)	HUGH CAMPBELL
<i>Trip</i> (servant to Charles)	JO. ASPERRY
<i>Chas. Surface</i> (scapegoat brother of Joseph)	GEO. BARRACLOUGH
<i>Sir Harry Bumper</i> (a drinking, singing companion)	EUG. K. ZAREK
<i>Maid to Lady Teazle</i>	RUTH HAGGERTY

School for Scandal—Costume Background

by E. M. Davis

THIS famous eighteenth century play was written as a satire on the manners and morals of the author's own time. The fashions of this period were so elaborate that the ladies and gentlemen had time for little else besides. Gentlemen as well as ladies wore rich

velvets and gay brocades enriched with cascades of fine lace. The legs of the elegant beaux were covered with white stockings. They wore buckled shoes and knee breeches with coats that were cut immoderately long. The skirts of the ladies were distended by ingenious wiring

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THAT SEPTEMBER MEETING

THE first monthly meeting of the season was held in the Y.M.C.A. on September 22nd, and it was a very successful affair. Every seat in the room was filled by 8.15, which meant over a hundred members and guests turning out to see what's cooking in Little Theatre.

Plenty is cooking. Mary Ellen Burgess started off by introducing the new executive and letting them speak for themselves, which was a mighty fine idea. Mary Ellen then turned the programme over to Les Salisbury, the programme convener. Les explained that a lot of hard work was being put into these meetings to cover all phases of the dramatic art, to make them interesting to all members. He also invited potential playwrights desiring assistance in having their plays produced or criticised anonymously or "onymously", to contact either him or the president, and arrangements would be made.

Les then proceeded to introduce Mr. D. J. Thom, K.C., honorary president and guest speaker of the evening. After Mr. Thom's inspiring talk, Mrs. Davis popped up with her puppets, and captivated the whole audience with her rootin' tootin' western show 'Bad Men Rustle Cattle'. Following this, Hilda Buckley let her hair down with the presentation of a nonsensical old-fashioned melodrama, "Virtue Triumphant", in which Anne Brandt tied her hair up in rags as the gum chewing baby. Just goes

to show you what a success a melldr drama would be in Darke Hall. A spot of dancing completed the evening, and everybody went home happy. We'll be seeing you at the next meeting, Wednesday, October 27th, in the City Hall at 8 o'clock.

"THE TORCH BEARER".

RESERVED SEATS FOR THE SEASON AT DARKE HALL

JACK MARTIN reports to *Masks and Faces* on an innovation in the seating arrangements for Little Theatre plays, which we think will be welcome to regular members. This season Little Theatre is offering the privilege of reserved seats for the three major productions, to all membership ticket holders. This privilege is for Friday night performances *only*. Here is how it works: Commencing Monday, October 25th, the reserved seat plan and membership tickets will go on sale together at the Canada Drug and Book Store. The back of each season ticket you purchase will be stamped with the number of the seat you reserve. This seat is yours for the *whole season*, for Friday night performances. Those who have already bought their memberships may take them down to the Canada Drug and reserve their seats. Now a season ticket means something, and there is no reason why everybody shouldn't take advantage of this plan. Of course, the number is limited, so you would be wise to get your membership as soon as possible.

THE SECOND PLAY?

WE'RE doing a lot of shouting about "School for Scandal", the first play of the season, but it won't hurt to whisper a few words about the second play. We know you're going to like it. The second play of the season is to be "The Willow and I" by John Patrick, and will be directed by Hilda Buckley. As you see, this is part of Little Theatre's plan to give you a wide variety of plays this year. We're jumping from 18th Century Costume drama, to a play hot from Broadway.

What the Critics Say

Coleman, in the N.Y. Daily Mirror: "The Willow and I, in sum, is a moving, literate, provocative play. The best drama of the new season."

Lockeridge, in the N.Y. Sun: "It is an entirely engrossing drama, skilfully lightened with humor."

Norton, in the Boston Post: "One of the strongest and most beautiful plays in recent years. Not a play with an elaborate and complex plot. It is fundamentally simple and just as relentlessly truthful as it is simple."

You'll be hearing more about "The Willow and I" in these columns. Watch for it.

Due to lack of space in this issue we had to hold over an interesting article by W. T. Read. Watch for it in the next issue.

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THE SPOT LIGHT

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to the Flewelling family on account of the new baby daughter, Judy.

ALSO, in case you hadn't heard, the editor is the proud father of a big baby boy, Peter Duncan Laight by name. Congratulations, Mrs. Laight.

IN planning costumes for "School for Scandal," it was found necessary to secure materials. It was suggested that old evening gowns, drapes, etc., be obtained, and an appeal to that effect was broadcast over a local radio station. To date the only response has been a book salesman who called at the home of the committee member in charge, saying he had heard the announcement, but wasn't certain whether it was old clothes or old men we needed.

ARE you listening to "Behind the Footlights," from CKRM every Friday night at 7.30? Mary Ellen Burgess and Fred Laight discuss problems of production and acting for amateurs.

AN orchid each to Jim Kent and Vic Liston for "The Drama Lab" productions from CKCK. Radio drama needs a hearing too.

CONGRATS to Rowena Hawkings on her new position, writing

radio scripts for the Saskatchewan Government School Broadcasts. Nice to see someone getting where they want to get in this world.

NEWS NOTES

LITTLE THEATRE is farming out one act plays on a percentage basis, same as last year, to various organizations in the city. First production is at St. Paul's in November.

DRAMA FESTIVAL? Oh yes, Little Theatre has one act plays in rehearsal for the Little Theatre Drama Festival which will be held some time in February. Best entries to go into the Provincial Drama Festival.

THE NEXT MEETING

THE programme for the next monthly meeting looks interesting. Our Frances Hyland is going to give us an informal talk on her recent expedition to the theatre school at Banff. Then there are two one act plays scheduled. "Post Office", by E. M. Davis, and "If Men Played Cards as Women Do", directed by Elsie Biddell. As if that wasn't enough, we're featuring Sergeant J. Aspery of the R.C.A.F. in some of his well-known monologues. You can't afford to miss this meeting.

School for Scandal

(Continued from Page 1)

and embellished with ruffles and paniers.

The natural hair was powdered white, except when wigs were worn, and these too were powdered. Never before or since have the heads of womankind been so burdened by puffs and curls. Often the hair was surmounted by jewels, flowers or feathers, and sometimes all of these were worn together. Any lady who presumed to fashion required the exclusive services of a hairdresser.

Replicas of these charming people of the eighteenth century may be seen in all shops where novelties are sold as they have become models for fragile figures in fine china and porcelain.

COSTUME COMMITTEE

Ella Davis, Phone 92867, Chairman.
Violet Salisbury, Phone 22272, Asst.

IF you have any old drapes, bedspreads, large pieces of velvet, etc., they can be used by the Costume Committee to make waistcoats for the gentlemen of *School for Scandal*.

Old evening dresses, net, lace or crepe, can also be used for the frills and furbelows.

Phone either of the two above members and a messenger will be sent to collect your contribution.

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