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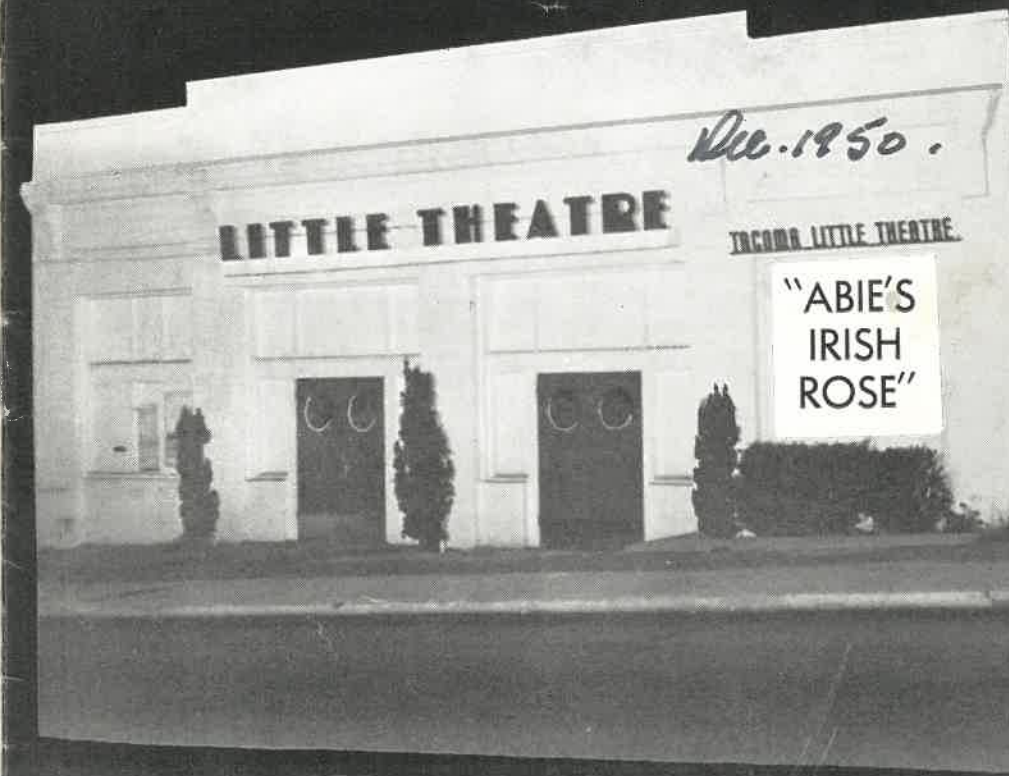
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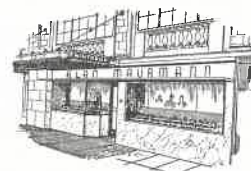
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Helen Weed, Exec. Sec'y-Mgr.; Tom Gregory, Play Director and Instructor;
 Bernice Riehl, Children's Theatre Director and Instructor

TONIGHT'S PLAY

— Tom Gregory —

In the year 254 B. C. there was born in Rome a man who was destined to become the grandfather of farce comedy. His name was Plautus. Little is known about his life, but the 20 plays he left to us reveal an understanding of people and a talent for humorous situations that has been a constant inspiration to the Theatre—such famous men as Shakespeare and Moliere are in his debt. Plautus' favorite device was "comic irony"—letting the audience in on something which the actors don't know; hence, leaving the customers free to laugh at the mix-ups which occur on the stage. Plautine comedy is often held in disrepute, since it seldom attains great literary excellence. However, it remained for one such play to break all long-run records on Broadway, and to hold that record for almost a quarter of a century. That play was "Abie's Irish Rose." Anne Nichols followed the formula of Plautus with a vengeance: the traditional irate fathers, the young lovers who are determined not to be kept apart, "comic irony", farcical situations and a happy ending. Admittedly, it is not a literary masterpiece, but as a consciously designed medium for the production of unlimited laughter it has already proved itself to be great Theatre.



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Directed by Tom Gregory

Settings by Rex Pierce

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of speaking)

MRS. ISAAC COHEN Luella Rathbone
ISAAC COHEN George Meininger
DR. JACOB SAMUELS Joel Durnin
SOLOMON LEVY Tom Gregory
ABRAHAM LEVY Stanley Veitenheimer
ROSE MARY MURPHY Earlene Beller
PATRICK MURPHY Al Werner
FATHER WHALEN Sherman Day
THE BRIDAL PARTY Laura St. John, Caroline Cochrane,
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Act Three

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WHO'S WHO

—By Peg Nourse—

STAN VEITENHEIMER (Abie)—At the ripe old age of 19 Stan has more or less grown up, dramatically speaking, in The Little Theatre. Some past productions include "I Remember Mama," "Life With Father," and "Papa Is All," of which his "Jake" in the last named play stands as his favorite. In "Abie's Irish Rose," Stan plays his first romantic role and in his own words he "loves it."

JOEL DURNIN (The Rabbi)—Joe made his debut at TLT in "Beggar On Horseback," then followed that up with the harrassed father in "Date With Judy." Off stage he is the father of three children, a musician of no mean ability (clarinet and saxophone), and a first-class "fixer" (we don't refer to parking tickets). In an emergency, Joel is a handy man to have around, as those who worked back stage in "Good News" can verify, for whether it was a broken bed, a collapsed bench, or a temperamental jalopy, up went the cry, "Quick, get Joel!"

TOMMY BELLER (Rosemary)—Recently returned to Tacoma with her family from Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Tommy attended her first TLT try-outs and walked off with a feature role. Army life (her father is addressed as Lt. Colonel Beller) has taken Tommy as far west as the Philippines where she made her dramatic debut playing Miriam in "Dear Ruth." Teamed with her twin sister, Jerry, Tommy entertained the troops overseas with a singing act in Red Cross and USO shows. This, together with radio appearances in North Carolina, round out a rather varied career for one so tender in years. Hope we'll see more of her.

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Who's Who Continued

AL WERNER (Patrick Murphy)—Al is an old-timer around TLT, having played in quite a number of past successes, including, "The Night of January 16th," "The Man Who Came to Dinner," "Men in White" and most recently in "Arms and the Man." His role in the latter is probably his most outstanding to date. In "Abie," Al gets a whirl at Irish dialect and comes up with very satisfactory results. "On the side" he operates the firm of Wernerprint, salesbrokers, and in his spare time likes to play around fashioning things with hammer, saw and wood.

TOM GREGORY (Solomon)—Directing and playing the lead in the same show might be a top-heavy assignment for some—but not Tom. Why? We'll let you in on a secret. "Solomon" is an old friend to Tom. He played the role and directed the show at the same time for the Army at the Santa Anna Air Base Hospital during the war. And that dialect? It's just one of a half dozen, including Cockney, Scotch, Italian, Irish and Scandinavian, that role off his tongue at the drop of a hat.

LUELLA RATHBONE (Mrs. Cohen)—TLT theatre-goers first saw Luella as the veddy English mother in "Peg O' My Heart" last season, followed by a character role in "Date With Judy." Since then Luella has taken time out to increase the size of her family by adding one little red-haired girl, and says it's wonderful to be back behind the footlights again. Though dramatics come first, she acknowledges an abiding interest in singing.

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Who's Who Continued

GEORGE MEININGER (Mr. Cohen)—It was a fast leap from the role of "Pooch," the trainer, in "Good News," to "Mr. Cohen" in "Abie's Irish Rose," but when George in a playful moment gave out with some Jewish ad-libbing in the box-office one night he didn't have a prayer—he was signed immediately. Like Tom Gregory, George is versatile with dialect—just name it and you can have it. Minstrel shows, night-club entertaining and MC assignments—all have contributed to his present versatility. George is married and the father of two little girls, each born, strangely enough, on the 18th of October, exactly one year apart!

SHERMAN DAY (Father Whalen)—Doctor, lawyer, politician, what have you. Sherm has played them all at some time or other in plays like "Men In White," "Our Town," "State of the Union," and many others. Now he dons the robes of a priest to add one more profession to his repertoire. Asked about a hobby, Sherm opined the only one he could lay claim to was the family cabin at Fox Island where he tinkers and putters to his heart's content.

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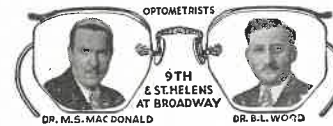
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