

HERE'S WHY YOU HEAR PROFANITY ON STAGE OF THE LITTLE THEATRE

Occasionally we get letters and comments from our audiences about the use of profanity on the Little Theatre Stage. We think that some of our audience will be interested in an article which appeared in a recent Playbill of the Baton Rouge Civic Theatre:

"Regarding the profanity in a play, you will appreciate that according to the copyright laws, we have no legal right to make a single word change in the play without the permission of the copyright owners—or, the author. Also, it is not the producer, the directors, the actors, nor even the author, who utters the profanity in the play, but the characters portrayed on the stage.

"Ninety per cent of the plays done today are realistic, because that is the way the audiences want them to be. So the author writes real people, as near as he is able to create them. Most of the characters are thinly veiled portrayals of real people. The playwright has written both the good and the ridiculous in them. To omit anything, even their moments of profanity, would be dishonest, and as ineffective as the preacher or reformer who, in fighting sin, refused to admit that it existed. Furthermore, most plays with profanity, are comedies, and holds up to laughter and ridicule most of the characters' foibles and weaknesses, and at the same time praises their virtues. For us to cut words or change what the author has written, is both unethical and illegal, and would partially destroy or render ineffective what the author intends to say.

"In our PLAY FOR CHILDREN series, we are careful to use plays that do not contain doubtful matter. But our regular major productions are for adults and we are hopeful that they do not offend."

"Neither should the theatre in our country be regarded as a luxury. It is a necessity because in order to make democracy work the people must increasingly participate; they can't participate unless they understand; and the theatre is one of the great media of understanding."

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Bernice Riehl, Children's Theatre Director and Instructor

TONIGHT'S PLAY

Frank Fay played Elwood P. Dowd for 1,351 of the 1775 New York performances while "Harvey" played on Broadway, and later played him several months on tour. Brown also played Elwood nearly 1,500 times. At one time three companies were playing "Harvey" simultaneously in the U. S., headed by Fay, Stewart and Brown.

"Harvey" has been done with striking success in the Argentine, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, the American and British zones of Germany, in Finland, France, Belgium, Greece, Vienna, Israel, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Ireland and Sweden. Harvey, incidentally, has never missed a performance.

The comedy was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1945, and it has been the most successful play ever to win this award. For the first year and a half of its New York run, the play never had an unsold ticket.



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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(In order of their appearance)

MYRTLE MAE SIMMONS	Mary Ormsby
VETA LOUISE SIMMONS	Marion Seymour
ELWOOD P. DOWD	Dick Odlin
MISS JOHNSON	Ethel Weeks
MRS. ETHEL CHAUVENET	Margaret DeMille
RUTH KELLY. R. N.	Mary Dolan
DUANE WILSON	Neil Skelton
LYMAN SANDERSON, M. D.	Ted Knightlinger
WILLIAM R. CHUMLEY, M. D.	Reno Odlin
BETTY CHUMLEY	Edith Odlin
JUDGE OMAR GAFFNEY	W. E. DeMille
E. J. LOFGREN	Virgil Groff

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play takes place in a city in the Far West in the library of the old Dowd family mansion, and the reception room of Chumley's Rest.

TIME: The Present

Scene 1: The library, late afternoon

Scene 2: Chumley's Rest, an hour later

Scene 3: The library, an hour later

INTERMISSION

(Cold drinks are available in the foyer)

Scene 4: Chumley's Rest four hours later

Scene 5: Chumley's Rest, a few minutes later

— Ladies are requested to remove their hats —

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PROPERTIES.....Marieta Loren, Chairman
Assistants: Agnes Poulsen, Ann Albohn, Lois Scholl, Margaret Udall, "Sailor" Hodges
COSTUMES:.....Ethel Weeks, Chairman
Assistants: Nancy Murphy, Patty Russell, Marjorie Denney, Peg Poole
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WHO'S WHO

By Daisy Bryant

MARIAN SEYMOUR

Has appeared in numerous Little Theatre productions — too many to enumerate. Among her best characterizations was that of the hapless victim in "Night Must Fall".

EDITH ODLIN

Makes her initial bow in this production before Tacoma Little Theatre audience. Made her stage debut in Anacortes, Washington.

MARY ORMSBY

Directed "Junior Miss" and "Ladies in Retirement" for this theatre. Acted in "Springtime for Henry" here. Directs and acts with equal aplomb.

MARY DOLAN

Last seen in this theatre in "Arms and the Man". Successfully divides her time between the Tacoma Theatre Guild and Tacoma Little Theatre.

VIRGIL GROFF

Was the delightful father in last year's production "Beggar on Horseback", and also played the bartender in "Three Men on a Horse". Perfect ad for his health store.

TED KNIGHTLINGER

Lent his fine manner to two Little Theatre productions thus far — "John Loves Mary" and "Petticoat Fever".

RENO ODLIN

Beautifully narrated Tacoma Little Theatre production "Our Town". Too long absent.

NEIL SKELTON

"Personal Appearance", "Milky Way", "Three Men on a Horse" are but a few of the plays in which Neil has appeared. Just completed role of a carpenter — having built a home for his family.

DICK ODLIN

He was so superb in his first animal production for this theatre — they cast him in another "Harvey".

MARGARET M. DeMILLE

First time we have seen her in a production, but is no stranger to the stage, having done extensive work in Canada, Evanston and Chicago, Illinois.

WILLIAM E. DeMILLE

First appearance here. States all he learned about the theatre he owes to his wife, Margart M. DeMille, who has always been highly interested.

ETHEL WEEKS

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LIFE WITH FATHER	✓
BOY MEETS GIRL	✓
PEG O' MY HEART	✓
JOHN LOVES MARY	✓
BEGGAR ON HORSEBACK	✓
ARMS AND THE MAN	✓
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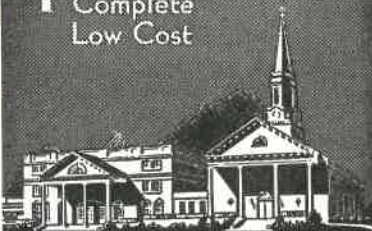
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"GAY 90'S MELODRAMA" with Olio has been chosen for the June production. Tryouts for casting will be held at the theatre May 21.

A few blocks of tickets are available to organizations for "TWO BLIND MICE". A block of tickets consists of 35, or more, reservations. A commission of 30c for adults and 15c for students is paid to any organization selling a block of tickets. Phone the theatre office, Br. 2481, for further information.

A Play Review, under the supervision of Mary Fuhrmeister, will be presented Tuesday, April 24, 8:00 o'clock. The Play Review will follow election of the 1951-52 Executive Committee on the Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors. Theatre members will be admitted on presentation of membership tickets; guests, 50c.

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