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"Breath of Spring"

Directed by EVE REYNOLDS



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Not in the picture: Lily Menicocci

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Miss Nanette Parry ("Nan")-----Barbara Simpson

Brigadier Albert Rayne, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.-----F. R. McCall

Lily Thompson (the maid)-----Lily Menicocci

Alice, Lady Miller-----Marion Plaquet

Dame Beatrice Appleby, D.B.E. ("Bee")-----Mary Jean Finnigan

Miss Elizabeth Hatfield ("Hattie")-----Erna Bence

Pape -----Pat Collier

Kemp -----Fred Menicocci

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WHO'S WHO

By LAURA DEVEUVE

EVE REYNOLDS, the Director. "Breath of Spring" is the second play Eve has directed for TLT, the first being "Strange Bedfellows," given last year. However, this accomplished lady has had a long career in many phases of theatre work at the Lakewood Players and she was the director for the Arts for Youth Festival both times it was given. Though she is an experienced actress, directing is her first love, she tells us. She lives in Lakewood, directing a cast of three children (Peter, Jerry and Erica) and two cats ("Sammy" and "The Speck") and, though it hardly seems possible with such a full program, she holds down a desk at the Tacoma News Tribune as Society Reporter. Eve is also to be commended as a recruiter for TLT; she has raided her paper's staff for acting talent, some samples of which can be seen right here tonight.

ERNA BENCE (Miss Elizabeth Hatfield—"Hattie"). Drafted by Eve Reynolds from the staff of the Tacoma News Tribune where she is Farm Editor (a unique position for this type of paper, we understand) Erna first appeared for the TLT as Tilly Sparker in "Strange Bedfellows." She started out in life as a musician, however, having studied "regular" music and later deserting it for popular and dance music. She organized a band during World War II and entertained service personnel all over the Northwest. More recently she played for the Arts for Youth Festivals. Erna is married, has one boy and lives on a farm just outside of Tacoma, a satisfactory place for a Farm Editor to live, even though her duties on the Tacoma News Tribune include other kinds of reporting, she tells us. Altogether a versatile person, what? and certainly an addition to TLT.

BARBARA SIMPSON (Miss Nanette Parry—"Nan"). Barbara appeared in "Picnic" for TLT. She likes dialects and so when recruited (Eve Reynolds again) for the part of Nan in "Breath of Spring" she was interested for aside from just speaking naturally she would have to use both French and Italian dialects. Fortunately for us she said "yes." Barbara was born in Connecticut but has lived in many places throughout the country, a matter which first interested her in different kinds of accents. Barbara's husband is a retired Navy man (and now you can see why she lived around here and there). With their five children and a cat the Simpsons appear settled at last so no doubt we'll see more of her.

MARY JANE FINNIGAN (Dame Beatrice Appleby, D.B.E. ("Bee"). This is Mary Jean's second appearance for TLT; she was Amelia in "Othello," if you recall. However, her experience in theatre work is considerable as she has been active in the Lakewood Players and "Town and Gown." For the latter she appeared in "Cradle Song" when it was given at the Bellarmine High School and she is also a member of a choir. Her work for the Lakewood Players has been extensive both on the stage and behind the scenes and scenery; she is currently Treasurer. Although she was born in Iowa, Mary Jean came to Tacoma in time to enter junior high school and has lived here ever since. When not engaged in matters theatrical she is Secretary to the Manager of the Villa Plaza Branch of the National Bank of Washington, and I'll bet he is glad she is!

MARIAN PLAQUET (Alice, Lady Miller). Fitting it is that Marian, who has a title in "Breath of Spring," should herself belong to a family proud of its history, in this case its history in Tacoma. Her father, John H. Kelly, settled here 'way back in 1898 and pursued a musical career as a teacher. He also directed the Shrine band. Marian herself is carrying on the musical tradition as an active member of the Clef Dwellers though during business hours she is to be found in the Department of Public Utilities. Her present role for TLT is her third; she was Aunt Eller in "Oklahoma" and had a major part in "Show Boat." You'd never guess it, unless you remember reading about it in the programs of these previous productions, that she has been a proud grandmother eleven times, which in itself would have been enough of a career for most women, but not for Marian!

PAT COLLIER (Inspector Page). Pat is another reason why we should be grateful to the U. S. Air Force. Tacoma recently inherited him because he was transferred from the Everett area. In between computer processing for Uncle Sam, Pat became interested in the theatre, his first appearance being in an armed forces production of the "Caine Mutiny Court Martial." During the last several years he has been an active member of the Snohomish County Community Theatre, taking part in various plays, including "Blithe Spirit," "Mr. Roberts," "The Solid Gold Cadillac," and "Jezebel's Husband." He was co-director for "The Reluctant Debutante" and directed "Send Me No Flowers." His appearance in "Breath of Spring" is his first for TLT but it

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WHO'S WHO?

(Continued)

sho' won't be his last! Pat is married, has three children and lives in Tacoma.

LILY MENICOCCHI (Lily Thompson). This part is Lily's tenth for TLT and the eighth in which she has played a Cockney maid. (Did you ever think there were that many plays with Cockney maid parts?) Lily says she is getting a bit "wore out" and thinks wistfully of the two plays in which she did something else, "The Women" and "The Great Sebastian." Though it may be a little hard on her to be so rigidly typed, it is quite obvious why she is. Aside from being talented, her London background (though not Cockney!) makes it easy for her; she just thickens up her accent somewhat and appears most convincing. Thanks go to Mrs. Roudebush who some ten years ago persuaded Lily to enter into this career. In addition to her acting, Lily has served almost the whole time as Chairman of the Costume Committee and also is currently serving as Chairman of the Lobby Fund. Contribution, anyone?

F. R. McCALL (Brigadier Albert Rayne, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.) This talented actor comes to TLT courtesy of The Cirque Players of Seattle. Let us observe proper protocol and allow the public relations department of The Cirque Players to tell us about him:

In 1953, F. R. McCall turned his back on a promising career in professional theatre which had taken him into national radio and television and the legitimate stage. During the years that followed, he pursued a variety of endeavors from undertaking to painting and managed to establish himself as an artist of wide renown. His works are represented in numerous collections throughout the United States, Europe and South America.

Then, in 1962, under the influence of David Wm. Brown, McCall returned to the theatre in the Lakewood Players' production of "Ten Little Indians." Since that time, he has become one of the Northwest's most popular and busiest actors, with "Breath of Spring" marking his sixteenth major production in the past two years.

The current season has already seen Mr. McCall chalk up three vehicles at the Cirque Playhouse in Seattle, where he is a resident member of their acting company, and one with the University of Washington. His last appearance in this theatre was in the title role of "Othello" last season.

FRED MENICOCCHI (Kemp). Fred, as well as his wife Lily, has had ten years' experience with TLT but most of it has been backstage. He works with lights and sets which he prefers to do but once or twice, as in "Roman Candle" and now "Breath of Spring," he has been drafted for a before-the-footlights part. When he is not at TLT or at home, Fred can be found at Boeing directing a flock of computers.

after the show . . .

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Also, Buckley News Banner, Gig Harbor Peninsula Gateway, Orting Oracle, Sumner News, Puyallup Valley Tribune, Labor Advocate, Fort Lewis Ranger, McChord Defender, Des Moines-Federal Way News, Daily Olympian, Suburban Times.

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