

Curtain goes up on Players' very successful Studio Night

by BILL HANNA
Huronian Players' final event of the season, "Studio Night", presented for the season subscribers, was held last Wednesday night in Midland Secondary School cafeteria.

It comprised three one-act plays, the first being Midland Secondary School Drama Club's entry in the Georgian Bay Drama Festival, the second and third being by Huronia Players and directed by novice directors. The purpose of the evening is, therefore two-fold, to thank the subscribers for their support during the season and to give new directors and actors an opportunity to

Final event

polish their skills. The students' production was a very sensitively done series of scenes depicting the development of mankind from the primitive struggle for existence, through the development of religion, the sacrament of marriage, prejudice, war and violence in the streets to the final catastrophe, the nuclear bomb. The play ended with the narrator asking the people of the world to reach out to each other, and with the cast reaching out to the

audience by way of illustration.

The narration, which introduced each mimed scene, music, sound and lighting were beautifully coordinated and the whole piece was most moving. The script, moreover, was developed by the students with their teacher Ray Holt, who is also a member of Huronia Players. This was done as an integral part of rehearsals and the result demonstrates just how much creative talent exists among our young people.

Suppressed Desires, by Susan Glaspell, was directed by Larry Piitz. In complete contrast to the first play, this was a comedy, a spoof on Freudian psychoanalysis, although somewhat dated in this age of encounter groups, Essalen and primal screams. It concerns Stephen (Jon Kee) a young architect, his wife Henrietta (Monica Kee), a clubwoman with an obsessive interest in psychoanalysis, who does not hesitate to diagnose and prescribe for her family and friends, and her sister Mabel (Lindsey Martin) who is convinced by Henrietta that she (Mabel) is subconsciously in love with Stephen.

There is a great deal of symbolic play with names (Step Hen - Stephen, etc.) until Stephen and Mabel take Henrietta's interpretations rather too much to heart. They finally resolve the problem with deal to go back to normal if Henrietta gives up dabbling in psychology.

As in many comedies, the quiet, unspectacular

character gets most of the laugh lines and Jon Kee read them with a nicely restrained sardonic delivery. To bring off the comedy, of course, Henrietta and Mabel must sustain a high degree of intensity for contrast and this Monica Kee and Lindsey Martin succeeded in doing, as evidenced by the obvious enjoyment of the audience.

The last play was the well-known vignette from the "trouble" in Ireland, "The Rising Of The Moon", by Lady Gregory. This was directed by Barry Daley who also did a minor speaking role. The play concerns the conflict between duty on the one hand and patriotism and the lure of a large reward on the other as experienced by the Sergeant, played by Ted Drennan. The Sergeant is a member of the constabulary whose duty it is to arrest an escaped prisoner, a rebel, "The Man", played by Stephen Hartnell.

The play opens on a wharf where the Sergeant and his two assistants (Barry Daley and Peter Conrad) post a notice offering a reward of a hundred pounds for the escapee. The assistants having left, the Sergeant is patrolling the wharf when a ragged man shows up. The newcomer, it gradually becomes clear, is the wanted

man. The action of the play centres around the rebel's efforts to enlist the policeman's sympathy as a fellow Irishman and the struggle in the officer's conscience between that very real sympathy and his duty, spiced by the thought of the reward.

Aside from the problem of speaking the lines in Irish dialect, which all concerned did most convincingly, the play required a genuine feel for the plight of the Irish people as symbolized by the Sergeant's mental turmoil. Ted Drennan realized this agony of decision and convinced the audience, who were gripped by the drama of it.

As well, both actors were aware of the streak of humour that runs in the Irish character in even the worst of times. Stephen Hartnell demonstrated a very fine singing voice in his rendition of a couple of republican ballads.

With the serving of coffee and cookies and presentation during the intermission of the second annual Huronia Players Award of \$50 to Nina Pruesse of Penetanguishene Secondary School to help her further studies in Dramatic Arts at York University, the evening can be counted as a very successful end to Huronia Players' season.

MOVIE GUIDE

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Midland Library News

Midland Public Library is pleased to announce that during the Month of July we will be having two displays on view. On July 4, 1983 Nancy Johnson of the Georgian Bay Art Society will have a display titled "Mixed Media." This display will be shown for the entire month of July.

St. Margaret's Centennial Committee is displaying articles of historical significance in recognition of the Hundredth anniversary of St. Margaret's Church this year.

The following is a list of new books available at the Midland Public Library:

Fiction include: Belmullet by Jocelyn Cobb; Fiar land, fair land by A. B. Guthrie; The frozen lady by Susan Arnout; Bloodtide by Bill Knox; The serpent by David Wiltse; Christmas at Fontaine's by William Kotzwinkle.

Non-Fiction include: Doing life: the extraordinary Saga of America's jailhouse lawyer by Stephen Bello; Beauty after 40 by Susan Sommers; FitzGerald as printmaker by Helen Coy; Echoes of the Ancient skies by E. C. Krupp; Bread winners by Mel London; Mao's Harvest: voices from China's new generation by Helen F. Siu.

Children's Department: Summer Programs: GAMES CLUB starting Tuesday July 6 and running every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. This will be a new program. So come out and meet new friends. We have Monopoly, Uno, Sorry and Scrabble. Bring your own games along if you wish.

Wednesday Afternoon Films: Films scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 1983 are: - The hound that thought he was a raccoon, - Brown wolf.

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