

Drama Reviews

"SMILIN' THROUGH"

Produced by the Threshold Players at the Glencoe School Auditorium Friday, December 2.

Cast

Sarah Wayne ..Mrs. Katherine F. Postle
Mary ClareMiss Rutheda L. Pretzel
John CarteretW. Albert Kemp
Dr. Owen Harding ..Robert G. McMillan
Ellen HardingMiss Sally Nohelty
Kathleen Dungannon

.....Mrs. Harry I. Miller
Willie Ainley ..Henry C. Champlin III
Kenneth WayneJoseph K. Shippen
Jeremiah WayneJoseph K. Shippen
Moonyeen Clare ...Mrs. Harry I. Miller

By H. A. Armstrong

"Smilin' Through," that brilliant three-act drama by Allan Langdon Martin, first made famous in Chicago at the Cort theater several years ago

by Jane Cowl and later adapted to the screen with Norma Talmadge in the dual roles, was presented by the Threshold Players of Glencoe at the Glencoe public school auditorium last Friday night as the third of that organization's major productions since its founding a little over a year ago. To say that the play was less than exquisitely staged, beautifully presented and admirably directed would be to trifle with the truth most grossly. Naturally, there were places where the production needed slight bolstering but it is one of the most difficult plays to produce that could possibly have been selected and, from any technical standpoint, cannot be too highly commended.

The scene is set in the Carteret garden and is the same in all three acts. Taking up the story chronologically rather than in the manner in which it was presented, Moonyeen Clare, the betrothed of John Carteret, is killed

on the evening of her wedding by Jeremiah Wayne, the disappointed lover. Fifty years later, or just before the outbreak of the World war, in 1914, the now venerable John Carteret learns that his niece, Kathleen Dungannon, has fallen in love with the son of Jeremiah Wayne and severely quarrels with his life-long friend, Dr. Owen Harding, over the subject. Nursing—in his grief and loneliness—his hatred for the Wayne family, Carteret forbids his niece, who is also his ward, to have anything to do with Kenneth. As the boy is just leaving for France with the army, Kathleen defies her uncle and goes to say goodby when Kenneth signals from the lane.

War Brings Reconciliation

The war over, Kenneth fails to write and Kathleen learns that he has left the hospital where he has been confined because of shell-shock and wounds and is greatly worried. A short time later Dr. Harding, coming through the garden gate for the first time in three years, tells John Carteret that Kenneth Wayne wishes to see him. Carteret refuses to see him. The boy comes, nevertheless, and tells Carteret that he cannot marry Kathleen because his physical condition would be but a burden on her happiness. Dr. Harding, knowing that it is but the hallucination of a shell-shocked mind, defies Carteret and calls Kathleen, then leaving. Kenneth, however, tells Kathleen that he doesn't love her, lying in order to carry out his resolve not to burden her.

Kathleen loses her grief and scorn on Carteret, scourging him for his selfishness and for having alienated Kenneth's affections. She then tells him that she is leaving him. Carteret, stunned by her determination, calls Dr. Harding to help him, apologizing. He then feels so good that he apologizes to Kenneth and the curtain falls with the reunion of Kathleen and Kenneth and the reunion of John Carteret with Moonyeen Clare.

Gives Brilliant Performance

To Mrs. Harry I. Miller, playing the dual role of Kathleen and Moonyeen Clare, goes the honor of the evening. Cast in two difficult, delicate parts that

would be easy to slight and just as easy to over-do, her work was brilliant. Joseph K. Shippen, cast as both of the Waynes, was equally outstanding. W. Albert Kemp was rather unconvincing as the old John Carteret, his manner and action denoting youth rather than age. As the young Mr. Carteret, however, his characterization was excellently handled. Robert G. McMillan as Dr. Owen Harding was also much more outstanding as a young man than as the same character in advanced years. At times however, his interpretation of the elderly Dr. Harding became certain and the old physician lived for the audience. Mrs. Sally Nohelty as Ellen Harding, the housekeeper, made the transitions of time and age truly, without apparent effort and was entirely convincing. The part of Willie Ainley, Kathleen's neighbor and lover, was well taken by Henry C. Champlin III. Rutheda L. Pretzel as Mary Clare, strictly speaking was entirely herself but brought this character out of the very mediocre standing that is ordinarily occasioned by the lines and caused it to become a real part of the play. And Miss Pretzel, with Mrs. Katherine F. Postle, handled the extremely difficult prologue, designed merely to prepare the mood of the audience for what followed, and to somewhat explain the background of the play, in a manner that entirely fulfilled the requirements of the author's intentions. "Smilin' Through" was delightful indeed.

Fred Skeel of 338 Woodstock avenue, Kenilworth, will join his wife and daughter in Tucson, Arizona, for the Christmas holidays. He will leave shortly for the West.

Mrs. Kenneth John Mearns of 51 Warwick road, Winnetka, entertained at her home on the afternoon of December 1, eleven of the Gamma Phi mothers.

The Phi Nu Beta Alumni association is giving an informal party this evening at the Shawnee Country club preceding its Founder's day banquet tomorrow at the fraternity house.

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