

arts & entertainment

Entertainment

Famous People Players benefits gallery

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

The immensely popular Famous People Players are returning to Markham Theatre Dec. 10 and 11, in a fund-raising program presented by The Latcham Gallery.

Founded in 1974 by artistic director Diane Dupuy, who engaged a small group of mentally handicapped young people to bring the full-size fluorescent puppets to life, the players have gone on to become an accomplished and internationally acclaimed professional troupe.

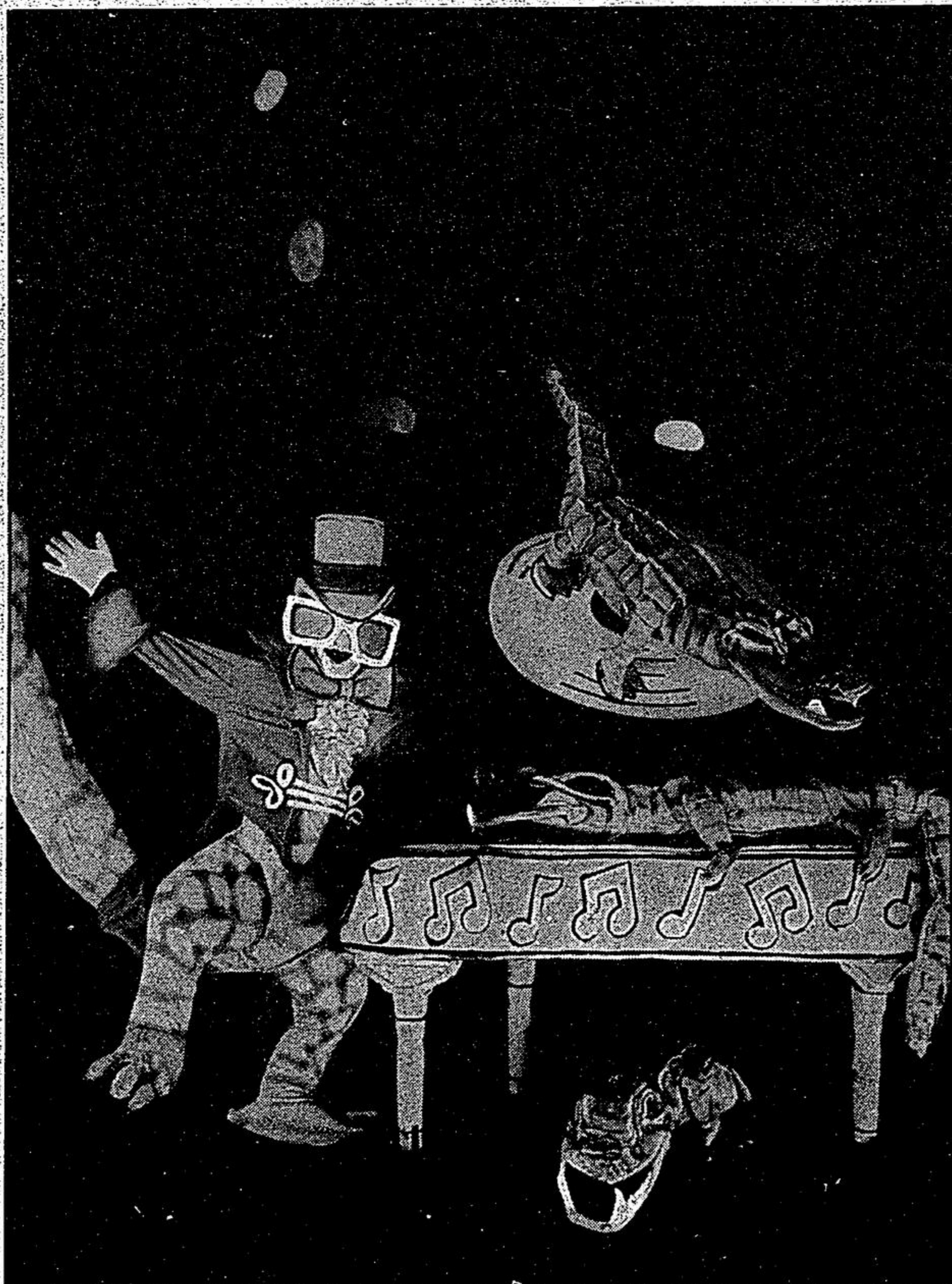
Dupuy, who has been awarded the

Order of Canada for her work, was inspired by the glove puppets she played with as a child.

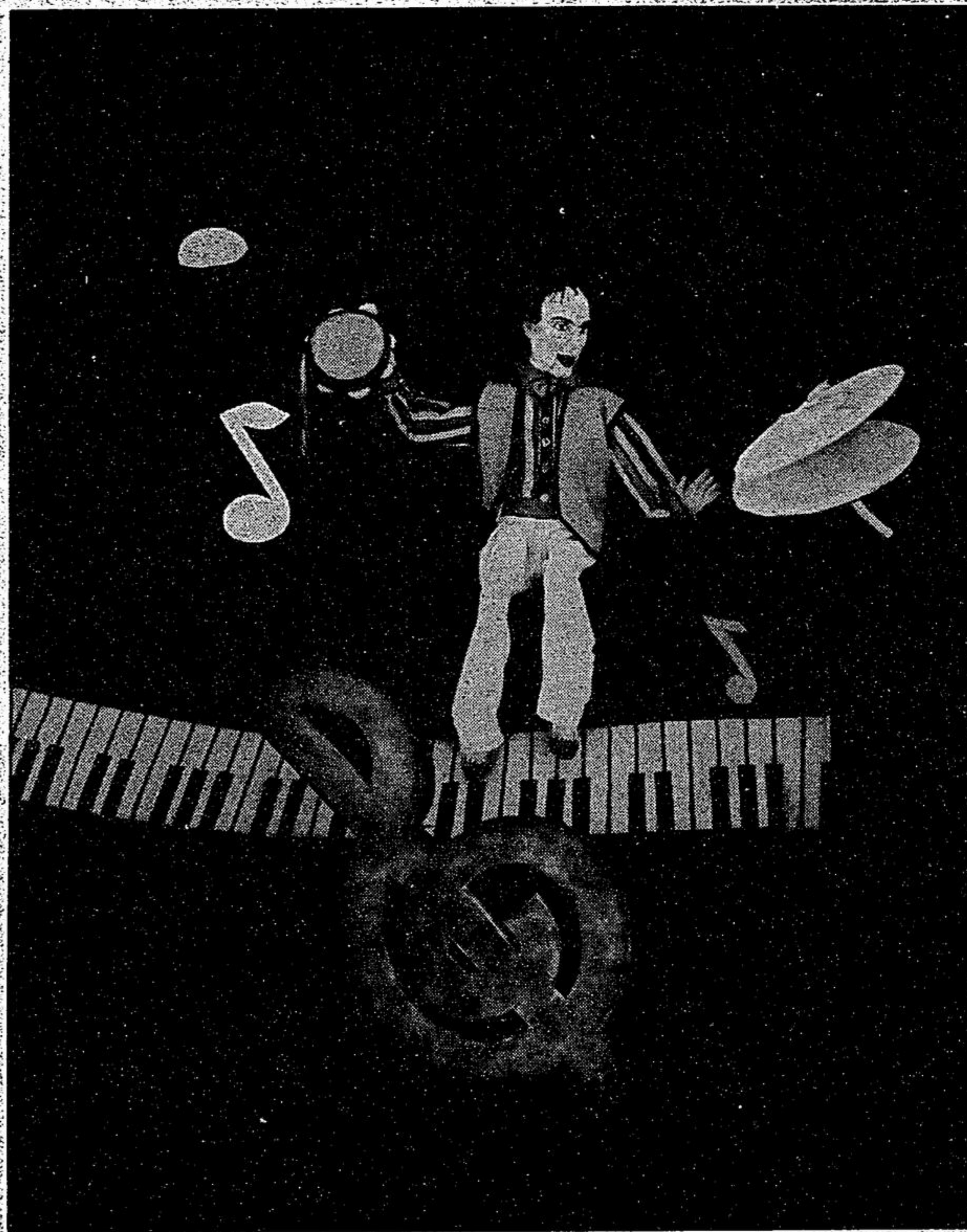
Shunned by classmates who labelled her 'retarded' because she was a slow learner, Dupuy created her own private world with the puppets.

Later she became convinced that many others, similarly labelled, could draw on their own unique brand of creativity to entertain and delight audiences throughout North America and around the world.

Her determination and drive, together with the formidable talents of her puppeteers and the creativity of design-



Elton John, as seen by the Famous People Players.



Music plays a large part in the Famous People Players show.

er Mary C. Thornton, have turned her dream into reality.

The Famous People Players' name is derived from their incredibly realistic, life-size celebrity puppets. These, along with all manner of fabulous creatures, props and special effects, come together in a fast-paced cornucopia of song, dance and music guaranteed to appeal to all ages.

The puppeteers themselves are dressed entirely in black and are invisible to the audience.

They manipulate the puppets in front of black lights, which create incredible visual impact as a backdrop to the shimmering, iridescent 'stars' of this joyous celebration of theatre and life.

Music, folklore, fairy tales and lifelike

caricatures of everyone's favorite performers, from Michael Jackson to Elton John, are brought together in a breathtaking display of color and light and music.

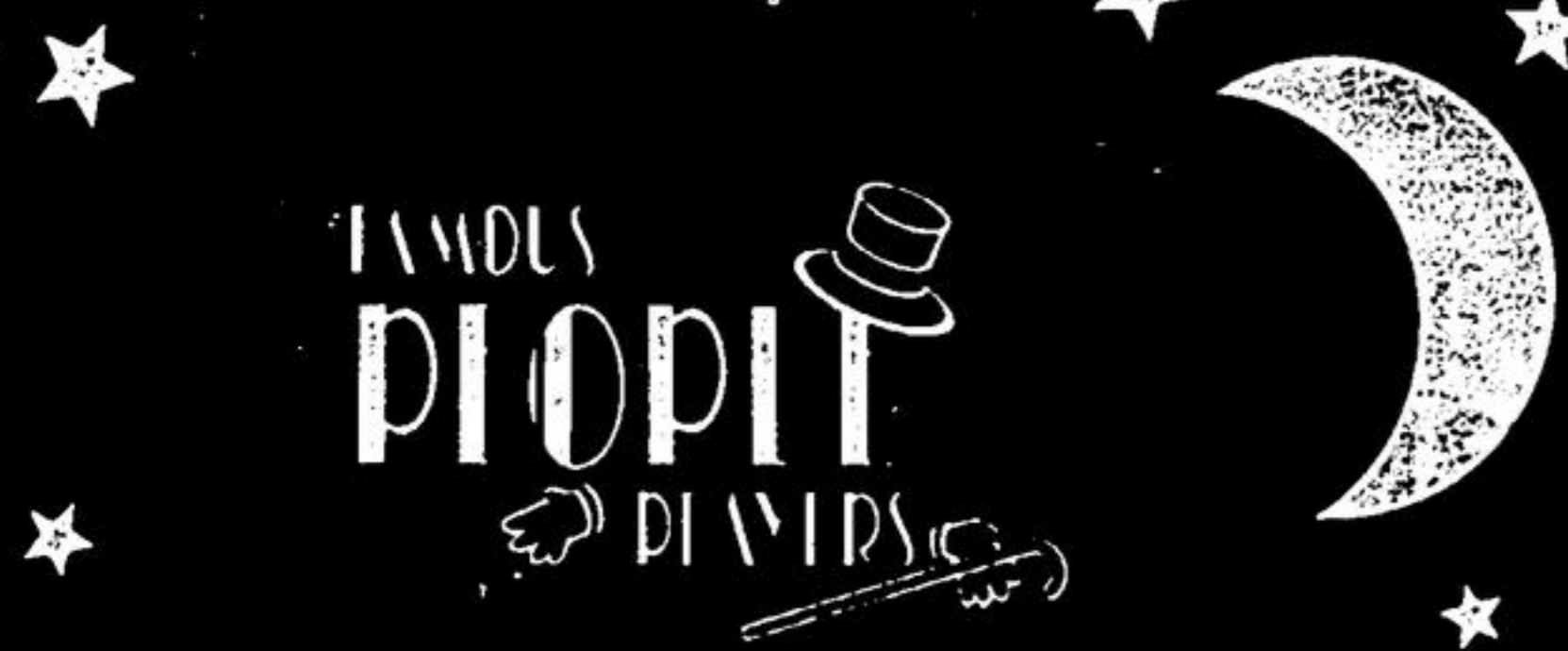
All the stunning visual effects including props, costumes, characters and settings are designed by Dupuy's mother, Mary C. Thornton, now 78, who at one time served as wardrobe mistress to the Hamilton Opera Company.

The show defies description, but the reviews it has garnered around the world give some idea of its magical effects.

The New York Daily News described one Famous People Players' Performance thus:

(Please see page 13)

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For more information call

THE LATCHAM GALLERY (905) 640-2395.

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