

Catholic Theater Conference To Feature Workshops

Denver—(NC)—A "breakfast with the experts" and the use of workshops will be two major innovations featured by the ninth biennial convention of the Catholic Theater Conference...



WALTER KERR

Emmet Lavery; Walter Kerr of New York, Leo Brady, of Washington, and Dr. Campton Bell, of Denver University.

Workshops are planned in play-writing, directing, production, college theater, high school theater, children's theater, scripts, directing, and producing.

Buttons On Display Buttons, literally hundreds of them, from the collection of William A. Yeager, collector and antiquarian, are on display in the hobby case on the third floor of the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences.

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POLK'S 1953 SUBURBAN DIRECTORY Enumeration is being completed in Brighton, East Rochester, Fairport, Gates, Greece, Irondequoit, Pittsford and Webster.

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NEW And NOW

By ROBERT SMET

Last week in the "Commonwealth," Walter Kerr, Emmet Lavery and several other theater authorities joined forces to rip the Legion of Decency into small pieces.

Setting the main issues aside, they did bring up some pertinent facts and provocative ideas for us movie-goers.

FIRST AND FOREMOST, the Legion of Decency is not an aesthetic judge of movie art but a moral judge.

A glance at a history book, however, will show one that through the centuries, the Church has been a patron of the arts and harbinger of the artist, but it has never confused art with morals.

We are at fault in judging the Legion of Decency. When a picture is listed as A-1, fit for family viewing, we take for granted this is a tremendous pleasure.

THE MAIN PURPOSE of art—movies, theatre—is to entertain. The Legion is not concerned with this. They have another problem to handle, the direction of morals.

We often hear people say that if the clergy did not make such a to-do over certain pictures, people might very well stay away from them of their own accord.

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THE PRIEST is a shepherd and his concern is for his sheep. He is a guide and a guard, one of his chief duties is care of souls.

It is his duty to warn, he cannot connive or contrive where obligation is concerned.

A Moral Code regarding movies did not come about through the auspices of the Catholic Church, but through the combined efforts of movie producers themselves in the early '30's.

The flavor of the cinema at that time was becoming such that even they could see the disastrous end coming into view.

Perhaps the Legion of Decency is a feeble attempt, but at least it is an attempt in the right direction. We, the movie-goers, are the ones who make it feeble.

AN A-1 PICTURE will never be artistically A-1 until we figure out what is good and what is bad art. Unless our taste in entertainment improves, we have no right to complain.

A teacher of drama once told me that one of his students went to New York for a holiday and on returning admitted that he V. Kenny.

New Play Season Includes Fry Work

A new season for Rochester's Arena Theatre on Hoeltzer St., running from Jan. 27 to May 30, will include plays by Shakespeare, Christopher-Fry, Shaw and Arthur Miller if present plans are realized.

This will be the first time that the group has attempted a Fry play. Last season saw the English playwright's "Sleep of Prisoners" done at the Auditorium, while in the past, "The Lady's Not for Burning," "A Phoenix Too Frequent" and "Venue Observed" were presented on Broadway.

TWO OF FRY'S best plays, "The Fireburn" and "Thor With Angels" have yet to be professionally done in this country.

Leading roles will be done by Sarah Scott and James Harwood. Miss Scott has given memorable performances in the past in "Kind Lady," "Black Chiffon" and many other Arena successes.

JAMES HARWOOD, who will play opposite Miss Scott in "The Man," was seen recently in "The Cocktail Party" and received much worthy praise for his portrayal of Sir Henry.

A hitherto unproduced play is also on the agenda for Arena's new season, rounding out a schedule that promises to suit every taste.

Christmas Story In 15 Languages

Washington—(NC)—The Christmas story from the Gospel of St. Luke was recited in 15 languages at a party for foreign students in the St. John's Memorial Library at the Catholic University of America here.

Christmas carols were sung in their native languages by Polish, French, Philippine and Spanish speaking groups.

Catholic Theatre Ends Second Christmas Season

The records of The Catholic Theatre of Rochester, which has just completed its second Christmas season, show that this young company has played to over 7000 people in its year and a half existence.

During this Christmas period, performances were given for many parish and diocesan organizations in various church halls and club rooms.

One-act plays produced by The Catholic Theatre since its foundation in October, 1951, include: "The Nip with Red Shoes," "Cheat the Devil," "The Sausage Maker's Interlude," "The Legend of Our Lady's Juggler," "Appointment at High Noon," "Simon and the Miracle," "The Penultima," "Christmas on the Village Square" and "The Sleeping Saints."

Movie Guide

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Christian In Action Series Lists Father Lord

Washington—(NC)—Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., will be the January speaker on the Christian In Action radio program, carried each Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, EST, by the American Broadcasting Company.



FATHER LORD

Father Lord is a veteran of 35 years in the education field and has written more than 200 pocket-size pamphlets on various religious and educational subjects, of which a total of more than 20,000,000 copies have been printed.

He currently broadcasts a daily 15-minute radio program and writes a weekly column for Catholic papers. He is the organizer-director of the Summer School of Catholic Action, which annually tours large sections of the country.

In addition, Father Lord is a national director of the Sodality of Our Lady and national director of the Eucharistic Crusade of Knights and Handmaids of the Blessed Sacrament. He makes his headquarters in St. Louis, but his many regular duties, in addition to speaking engagements, keep him constantly on the move.

Father Lord also has written and produced pageants in connection with anniversary celebrations both in this country and foreign lands. He also has found time to write a number of books. Inaugurating the 1952 Christian In Action program, Father Lord will speak on "Opening Our World to God," which will emphasize the necessity of the secularist-threatened world returning to God. The topics of his individual talks will be: "Re-Eviling the World With God," January 6; "The Tale of a Godless City," January 13; "Gateway to Grace," January 20; and "The Answer To The Godless World," January 27.

The choir of the Theological College of the Catholic University of America, directed by Paul Abrogast, will furnish the music for the broadcasts.

Family Radio Rosary Leaders

The Radio Rosary is broadcast every night at 7 p.m. over Station WSAV, Rochester. Leaders for the coming week include: Saturday, Dec. 27—William B. Waldman, Holy Apostles; Sunday, Dec. 28—Charles Gardner, St. Theodore; Monday, Dec. 29—Joseph Snyder, Holy Family, accompanied by the Marianites of Holy Family; Tuesday, Dec. 30—Anthony J. Calkin, Our Lady of Victory; Wednesday, Dec. 31—Louis R. Schuler, St. Margaret Mary; Thursday, Jan. 1—Ella Koolen, Bishop James E. Kearney, accompanied by children of St. Francis of Assisi Parish; Friday, Jan. 2—Vincent Milano, St. Anthony.

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