

NEW And NOW

By ROBERT SMETT

"The Amazing Monsieur Fabre," now playing at Rochester's Little Theatre, is based on the accomplishments and unusual career of French entomologist, Jean Henri Fabre.

Interspersed with camera probes into the doings of spiders, caterpillars, ants and such are the warm and humorous scenes of the part-time scientist's family life.

Fabre was by profession a mathematics instructor, but his greater love was the study of insect life and habits.

PIERRE FRESNAY, who gave us the tremendous "Monsieur Vincent," offers a subdued, but brilliant portrayal as Monsieur Fabre.

I READ THIS TWICE—from Thomas Merton's new diary-autobiography "The Sign of Jonas," which will be released Feb. 5. (Excerpt from Apr. 5, 1949):

"Yesterday was a landmark in the history of Gethsemani. In the Chapter room, before the assembled community, and scrutinized by the portrait of Don Benedict, Robert Speaight gave us some readings from "Murder in the Cathedral" (T. S. Eliot), and we got to bed late. The first time Gethsemani has stayed up to go to the theater.

"It was very good.

"BUT WHAT WAS BEST about it was that I felt the community was responding to it far better than the New York audience in which I sat and saw "Murder in the Cathedral" years ago. Here there was plenty of

laughter at the apologies of the Four Knights.

"The last time I saw it I thought I was going to get thrown out by the ushers for being so indiscreet as to laugh at a play which, to judge by the program, was obviously high art.

"There were many who were deeply moved by the whole thing. I think the chorus about hell went over big. Even Don Benedict's portrait enjoyed that."

"PLAYERS INCORPORATED," National Repertory Company, from Washington, D. C., will present Shakespeare's "Love's Labor's Lost" at Nazareth College Auditorium in February.

Launching its fourth season of nationwide touring, Players Incorporated is bringing back to the American scene the traveling repertory company.

High point of last season's tour was the six weeks the Players spent in Japan and Korea, where, under the auspices of the Department of Defense, they presented both a Shakespeare comedy and a Moliere farce to battle-weary G.I.s. And the boys really went for it!

All members of "Players Incorporated" are former students of the famed Speech and Drama Department of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., whose distinguished faculty includes Father Gilbert V. Harke, O.P., Dr. Josephine Calkins, Leo Brady and James Waring.

Selection of Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York as television's "Man of the Year" marks the first time a clergyman has won one of the top categories in Radio-Television Daily's annual survey.

BISHOP SHEEN took the top spot in the publication's check of the critics' preferences for "The Who's Who of '52."

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Cardinal's Trial

Radio Drama 'Factual'

General Clay States

New York — (NC) — Facts on the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty were the basis for a radio drama, "Trial By Forgery," heard last Sunday throughout America.

The hour-long play, featuring screen actors Joseph Cotten and Anne Baxter, told the story of a husband and wife in Hungary who unwittingly aided the Communist regime in convicting the Cardinal on charges of plotting against the State.

Based on articles by Edmund and Laszlo Szeles, handwriting experts who escaped from the Reds to show the world the forgeries they had been forced to make before the Cardinal's trial, the drama included scenes of Cardinal Mindszenty's imprisonment and portrayed his gradual submission under drugs to "admit" his alleged crimes.

THE DRAMA was presented on the NBC network two weeks before the fourth anniversary of Cardinal Mindszenty's trial which began in the first week in February, 1949.

The story depicted the prelate's steadfastness under Communist mental torture and presented the Cardinal as a man of such strong will that only exhaustion and special dosages of drugs finally caused him to "confess."

In the script, written by Bernard C. Schoenfeld, Cardinal Mindszenty appeared before the Red court in such a drugged state that he could only repeat Russian charges in a parrot-like manner.

"It is your right as Americans to hear this story," Gen. Lucius D. Clay stated in a prologue to the radio play. The play, Gen. Clay said, was based on facts that have been revealed concerning the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty.

Critics saw the program, produced by United States Steel on "Theatre Guild of the Air," as one of the most outspoken dramatic treatments to date of Russian anti-Church methods.

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'Robin Hood' Listed At Dryden Theatre

The Dryden Theatre continues its current series devoted to retracing the screen careers of some of the most noted stars with the showing of "Robin Hood," the film that marked the peak of Douglas Fairbank's popularity.

"Robin Hood" has been remade many times in the movies, but the silent version with Doug Fairbanks as Robin Hood, Alan Hale as Little John and Wallace Beery as Richard the Lion-Hearted remains the favorite of many who saw it in 1922.

The Fairbank's "Robin Hood" will be shown once on Saturday, Jan. 24, at 3:30 in the Dryden Theatre of George Eastman House. It will be shown twice on Sunday, Jan. 25, at 2:30 and 4:30.

The founding of any organization takes a deal of planning and "talking up" that falls on the shoulders and to the enthusiasm of a few.

JOSEPH O'CONNOR, already a young parish leader in Holy Family, said that this first general meeting, which is now a quarterly affair, gave successful birth to the Holy Family Theatre.

At this first convocation, Raymond Hannan was elected president; Thomas Walsh, vice president; Rita Tota, secretary and Sylvia Sauer, treasurer. The two young men are now in the service of their country.

White Fathers Issue New Film On Africa

Washington — (NC) — A new color film on the wildlife, native "pulse," and missionary work of the White Fathers in Africa has been issued by the White Fathers Film Distribution Center here.

Entitled "African Kaleidoscope," the movie is narrated by John Patrick Costello and runs for 15 minutes.

Films on travel, art and ballet will be given special featuring this week at The Memorial Art Gallery. On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 25th, at 4:15 p. m., "Bum," "Great Ballerina," "North of Hudson Bay" and "South Africa" will be shown to the public following a talk on the Austrian folk paintings by Mrs. Susan Schilling.

The following day, Jan. 26, at 2 o'clock and again at 8 p. m., a special program of art film in color will be presented to the Gallery members.

Selection of Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York as television's "Man of the Year" marks the first time a clergyman has won one of the top categories in Radio-Television Daily's annual survey.

Rehearsals Set For Lenten Play

Rehearsals have started this week for Holy Family Theatre's Spring production, "The Robe," to be presented during Lent, week of March 15, at the Holy Family Auditorium, Jay St., Rochester.

Heading the cast is Joseph O'Connor, veteran actor of the Theatre's past ten shows. Playing opposite him will be Inez Paskal, in her first leading role. Finishing touches to the seven different sets to be used in the production of this religious spectacle are being made.

Howard Strasser, as stage manager, has been actively engaged in the major construction as well as the completion of the stage assignments.

Credited with the outstanding originality in the scenic design is Frank Treu, a stand-by and past designer of the theatre's musicals and dramas during the past several years.

Authentic furnishings and originally constructed furniture will be used on stage.

Preliminary work on the many period costumes has begun under the leadership of Martha Schurz. Hundreds of yards of material will be used and the committee is coping with the peculiar problems involved in the costuming of ancient times.

Lloyd C. Douglas wrote the novel, "The Robe," in 1942, a best seller for that year. In 1952, it was dramatized by John McGreenery.

Thought For The Day

On the "Thought for the Day" program of WHAM-TV from Monday through Friday at 10:25 a. m., priests of the diocese are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, Jan. 27 — Rev. Frank Taylor

Friday, Jan. 30 — Rev. Frank Peggann

Movie Guide

Rochester

LOEW'S ROCHESTER
Kansas City Confidential B

RKO PALACE
Ruby Gentry B

PARAMOUNT
The I Don't Care Girl B

LITTLE
The Amazing Monsieur Fabre A-1

CINEMA
The Happy Time A-2

Legion of Decency Listings

CLASS A-1 — Unobjectionable for General Patronage

Abbott & Costello Meet Gold Diggers
Alibi
Amazing Monsieur Fabre
Alibi
Battle Zone
Battles of West Point
Brave New Girl
Bells on Their Toes
Bringing Up Baby
Celtic Town
California Conquest
Crimson Pirate
Dead Man's Trail
Fargo

CLASS A-2 — Unobjectionable for Adults

Alone and Beyond
Against All Flags
Behn in Rapture
Beautiful but Dangerous
Big Boy
Brandy for the Parson
Capt. Jack
Captain Blacklock
City of the Living Dead
Devil Take Them
Diplomatic Courier
Eight Iron Men
Eighteen
Four Fingers
Gold Diggers of 1933
Gone with the Wind
Hogman's Knot

CLASS A-3 — Objectionable in Part

Don't Bother to Knock
Girls in the Night
Harold Lloyd
I Don't Care Girl
The Man with the Grey Glove
The Meanest Woman Alive
Mystery Gambler
Montana Belle
The Thrill That Kills
Wags of Lap Dog
Women Without Names

Holy Family Theatre Birthday Will Mark 4 Years Of 'Doing Something' For God

There is a steady buzz of activity around Jay St. way these days. Rochester's Holy Family Theatre is making ready for a show.

Perhaps the biggest venture to date of this group will almost coincide with its fourth birthday. The Theatre was born on March 14, 1949 when a number of young parishioners gathered, glowing from the success of two theatricals, and decided to band together.

Such a move is not accidental. The founding of any organization takes a deal of planning and "talking up" that falls on the shoulders and to the enthusiasm of a few.

JOSEPH O'CONNOR, already a young parish leader in Holy Family, said that this first general meeting, which is now a quarterly affair, gave successful birth to the Holy Family Theatre.

At this first convocation, Raymond Hannan was elected president; Thomas Walsh, vice president; Rita Tota, secretary and Sylvia Sauer, treasurer. The two young men are now in the service of their country.

A glance at the constitutions of these energetic show-people tells why there is a Holy Family Theatre: —

"The object of this organization shall be to promote theatre and good fellowship, and to discover and develop native talents and abilities for the common good and the personal enrichment of the members."

THAT COVERS IT, but it cannot tell the full story. It cannot tell the very important spiritual benefits that individuals have derived or with which the group as a whole has been blessed through the years.

It cannot tell of personality and character forming achieved, or even the happy marriages that have resulted from the activity of talented people binding themselves together to "do something" for the glory of God.

Holy Family Theatre has its angel in the wings. Its main behind the scenes — Father Bauer, assistant pastor of Holy Family, is a student at Aquinas Institute, and this interest in dramatics carried on through his senior years in St. Bernard's High School, among other places. He directed the production of "Everyman."

Father Bauer's first assignment after ordination was to St. Boniface Church, where he received the famous "Footlight Club" of former days. His appointment to Holy Family brought productions of "The Ups and Downs of Matilda" and "Milk and Honey" in the Fall of 1948 and "The Winter of 1949" had previously done at St. Boniface.

These first two presentations were original musicals written by Father Bauer and completely cast and produced by young parishioners, as are all Holy Family shows.

switch was made to straight drama with "A Date With Judy," directed by Bill Jones of the one-time Blackfriars Guild. "The Duggans and The Doakes" again found Father Bauer in the author-director's chair in October 1949.

Mrs. La Moyné Blech directed the melodramatic farce "Office 666" in the Winter of 1950. She and her husband, Dr. Blech, great drama enthusiasts, are now living in Ruston, La., and are "knee-deep" in radio work.

"Waltz Time" and "Marrying Marion" were the musical presentations of 1950, followed by an opera, "The Gypsy Troubadour" in April 1951. The year was rounded out by "Arsenic and Old Lace" in November.

AN ORIGINAL revue, "Flashback Follies," produced in May 1951, combined hits from the past six previous musicals as its first portion and put Holy Family's hopes and dreams into musical language as its second half.

Again balancing the showman's diet, "Peg O' My Heart" was presented in October 1952.

Every theatre group has its unsung heroes and Holy Family has had many through the years. Art Designer Frank Treu is one of those people. He has given of his talent to produce those jewel-box sets and attrac-

live posters, not to mention the thousand and one other details that make a production.

WHO CAN SAY how many costumes Mrs. Martha Schurz has created in these four years? How many buttons sewed on, how many skirts eared and sequins jacked in place? The costumer's work is never done.

When it comes to music, Joseph Snyder is called into action for those greeling hours of rehearsal where work and coordination lead to the perfection of opening night.

The present officers of the Holy Family Theatre include Thomas O'Neil as president, who has labored with the rest to make success of venture. Clarence Dentinger is the current vice president; Margaret Frank, recording secretary; Winnifred McLaughlin, corresponding secretary; and Helen Schramel, treasurer.

The Holy Family Theatre was not founded to make money. Its purpose has already been mentioned. But there has been an unwritten axiom, "It takes money to make a good show."

WITH THIS IN MIND, Father Bauer showed this reporter the financial statement, saying, "If you're not surprised by this, I'm not surprised by the rest."

There are new horizons now for the Holy Family Theatre as it launches into the fourth year. The crowning glory will be "The Robe," opening March 15. A very ambitious production, one might say, but for the members of Holy Family Theatre, it will be their thanksgiving gift for God's blessing and guidance in four years of labor for Him — behind the masque.

Family Radio Rosary Leaders

The Radio Rosary is broadcast every night at 7 p. m., over Station WSAJ, Rochester.

Leaders for the coming week include:

Saturday, Jan. 24 — Dr. Charles Mathews, St. Patrick;

Sunday, Jan. 25 — Eugene G. Wegman, St. John the Evangelist, Greece, accompanied by H. N. S. of St. John;

Monday, Jan. 26 — Frank Sawyer, St. Theresa;

Tuesday, Jan. 27 — Frank W. Donovan, Cathedral of the Sacred Heart;

Wednesday, Jan. 28 — Edmund Eihloul, St. Nicholas;

Thursday, Jan. 29 — Thomas McNamee, St. Rita, West Webster, accompanied by H. N. S. of St. Rita;

Friday, Jan. 30 — J. Delbert Wheeler, St. Salome.

British To Try Information Plan

London — (NC) — The American Church contacted by members of the British Church in London will be tried out in England.

The Knights of St. Columban, counterpart of the American group, has announced a plan to bring the plan to the attention of the British Church. Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, has given his warm endorsement of the idea.

The British Knights will seek converts mainly through the distribution of leaflets inviting those interested to write to Catholic centers for further information rather than by advertising in the press as it does in the United States.

National Pilgrimage to Ireland

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Arena Play To Be Sponsored

Members of St. Mary's Junior League will sponsor the play, "Major Barbara," a comedy by George Bernard Shaw, at the Arena Theater, 12 Hoeltzer St., Wednesday evening, Jan. 28.

Tickets may be purchased from league members or at the box office of the Arena. Proceeds will be used for the annual picnic for boys at St. Joseph's Villa.

Committee heads are: Mrs. Gottry, honorary chairman; Mrs. John Judge, general chairman; Mrs. Erwin Thurston and Mrs. Henry Link, program, and Mrs. Arthur J. Dallor, publicity.

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