New Jesuit Play Praised By Nobel Prize Winner

Nobel prize winner Francois Mauriac, one of the foremost literary men in France's history and a member of L'Academie Francaise, devoted an entire front page column in the Paris newspaper, Figaro, to praise of the new drama, "The Strong Are Lonely".

Walter P. Chrysler, Jr., is presenting the play in Philadelphia at the Walnut Street Theatre beginning Sept. 17 prior to its Broadway opening on Sept. 29 at the Broadhurst Theatre.

"The Strong Are Lonely", which stars Victor Francen and Dennis King, is a powerful dramatization of Jesuit efforts to convert and civilize the pagan Indians in Paraguay in the 18th century and their subsequent embattlement with the materialistic forces of the world. It will be directed by Margaret Webster. Adapted from Fritz Hochwalder's script by Eva LeGalliene, "The Strong Are Lonely" was a smash hit for two years in Paris.

FRANCOIS MAURIAC wrote his appreciation of the play not only for its dramaturgic merits but for its highly pertinent message to all Catholics:

"A new spiritual level has arisen in the theatre since our youth. Today, as was not in the past, there exists a public which thrives on thought provoking plays.

"I trust, however, that this will not dissuade the general theatre going public from seeing "The Strong Are Lonely" by the Austrian dramatist, Fritz Hochwalder. Even those who normally skirt the idea of seeing a play of ideas will be deeply affected by the play's moving powers.

"THE PRICE THAT the ordinary stage offering too often exacts from the theatregoer is a dizzying void—and unfulfilled yearning to be made aware, to see a new truth unveiled, to continue in themselves for a time the experiences put before them on the stage. This play, however, fulfills that yearning."

The exotic setting for this unusual play has been created by Rolf Gerard with incidental music by Lehman Engel.

Mr. Francen, who just completed the film, "Hell and High Water," with Richard Widmark, makes his American stage debut here. One of the most valued of French actors, he appeared in over 50 American and French movies, including "Hold Back The Dawn," "Tales Of Manhattan," "End Of Day," "Madame Curie," and others.

MR. KING'S exciting portrayals in recent Broadway seasons have run the gamut of roles from "Music In The Air," through "Billy Budd," "The Devil's Disciple," "The Cocktail Party," "Pygmalion" and a host of television appearances.

Philip Bourneuf will be featured and was seen last season in "Loves Labor Lost." An unusual name in theatre, Nils Asther, a magic name of screen, will herald the Broadway debut of this Swedish actor. Others in the cast include George Mitchell, Paul Ballantyne, Frederick Rolf, John Marley, Martin Rudy, Kermit Murdoch, Stewart Vaughn and others.

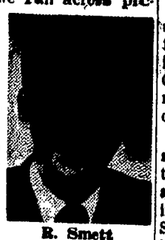
Radio, TV To Carry Bishop's Consecration

Tucson, Ariz.—(NC)—Both radio and television will record the consecration ceremonies of Bishop-designate Francis J. Green, Auxiliary of Tucson, in St. Augustine's Cathedral on Sept. 17. Bishop Daniel J. Gercke of Tucson will be the consecrator and Bishop John Peter Davis of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Auxiliary Bishop Hugh A. Donohoe of San Francisco, will be the co-consecrators.

NEW And NOW

By ROBERT SMETT

Cleaning out an old file of photos used for movie and theatre publicity, we ran across pictures of Loretta Young, Claudette Colbert, Ingrid Bergman, Ethel Barrymore and a few other well-known actresses outfitted as nuns for various screen hits.



R. Smett

Thinking back on these productions, have you ever noticed how they invariably "miss the boat".

They usually have "Sister" as some pious little thing, looking glamorously angelic in flowing robes and flattering coif. Or the other extreme, the "modern nun", showing "Sister" teaching little Johnny the manly art of self defense or batting a home-runner for the losing team in the vacant lot next to the convent.

The movie "Sister Superior" is the one who really takes it on the chin. This type must be stern, unremitting, with Rasputin-eyes and the will of twenty generals. She is designed to frighten Hallowe'en witches and take all the joy out of life for the sweet little thing who has the lead role.

SEVERAL YEARS ago, in another diocese, I was audience to a play done by the Sisters of a particular convent, the nuns playing all the roles. The play was about nuns, the setting was a convent, and although the Sisters were all students of drama, the play was only a partial success. They didn't act like nuns. They acted like nuns acting like nuns. Or actresses acting like nuns. But they just didn't act like nuns we know.

So, what's a nun? Nuns are people. With a little sharper sense of humor than most, quite a bit more simplicity, and bearing the obvious happiness coming from that assurity of purpose synonymous with a life of consecration.

Ask any actor or theatre person, who has enjoyed the experience, what kind of audience he would prefer if he had his choice. Answer: "Gimme nuns, a whole theatre full".

Why? It's hard to say. They are the best audience in the world, of course. They miss nothing. You must wait after every comic line for the Sisters' laughter to quiet. This is close to heaven for the actor. If you want them to cry, they do it in buckets. They live the play along with the performer right to the bitter end.

VERY RECENTLY a convent of Poor Clares celebrated the feast of their foundress by giving a play on St. Clare of Assisi. Costumes amounted to choir robes and white veiling worn over the habits.

But this is it. There were seven characters in the play and there were just seven nuns living at this particular convent, leaving no audience but the angels. So after each Sister did her bit in the drama, she took a seat in the audience. Who else but the Sisters could think this one up?

Getting away from the stage "nuns", nuns on the stage, and nuns in the audience, how about just plain nuns? Most of us have had associations from being taught by the Sisters in our parochial schools. Unfortunately sometimes the relationship has stopped right there.

A few weeks ago, we heard a woman address her seven-year-old son, who, tired by too much play and sun, was being particularly obstreperous: "I'll be glad when school starts, let the Sisters take this for awhile".

When someone questioned defensively why the Sisters should be saddled with her problem, she replied, "Well, they've had a rest all summer, I haven't!"

WELL, SISTERS, I hope you have enjoyed your rest—teaching in the heat-oppressed summer schools, perspiring at various colleges and universities preparing yourselves to do a better job, taking on catechism courses in the rural areas, nursing the clock around in the hospitals, always planning curricula for the coming year.

Hope you enjoyed the rest that comes from setting yourselves in a few weeks to be mothers to from forty to fifty children for more hours a day than their own parents. The rest that comes from looking forward to trying to push the word of God, PLUS a little reading, writing and 'rithmetic into heads crammed with Boston Blackie, Howdy-Doody, Super Comics and Roy Rogers.

No wonder it's hard to portray a nun on the stage. Guess it's more than the drama colleges can teach to enable an actress to portray all this.

Guess it would take several courses in that school of sanctity where women of mixed backgrounds, emotions and intelligences are molded into a single torch — loving, warming, giving light to all that darkness that blocks heaven from earth.

First CinemaScope Film

RICHARD BURTON, above, in a scene from the 20th Century Fox film version of "The Robe", taken from Lloyd C. Douglas best-seller. Burton will portray Marcellus in the CinemaScope-Technicolor production, which will open at the Roxy Theatre in New York on Sept. 16.

Movie-Mission Priest Leaves In Search Of New Films

New York — (NC) — Father Fournier is off again — and that's good news for folks who appreciate well-made movies about the foreign mission fields.

Aboard the SS. Independence, Father Gordon H. Fournier, W.F., superior of the White Fathers' house of studies in Washington, D. C., and a movie-producing party sailed for North Africa. They will spend a year in Africa making movies.

Accompanying Father Fournier were three students for the White Fathers' priesthood, who will spend two years each in the community's seminaries in the Archdiocese of Carthage and at Thibar in the study of theology. The students are John Brown, John Braun and Thomas Handrigan, who this month completed their novitiate studies at the White Fathers' novitiate, Alexandria Bay, N. Y.

FATHER FOURNIER, "the Cecil B. DeMille of mission movie producers," is with a party headed by Harvey Harmington, a non-Catholic movie producer. Father Fournier said the party plans to make a survey of likely movie locales in the Sahara oases mission areas, the Hoggar desert areas and territory in the French Sudan.

The party is equipped to make color and sound movies, as well as stills of mission life in West Africa, Father Fournier said.

"I am particularly interested," said Father Fournier, "in documenting the story of the Moslem strength in Africa. This is a story that should be made plain and impressed upon Catholics of the United States because Mohammedanism constitutes the greatest threat to the Church's progress in Africa."

FATHER FOURNIER recalled that missioners in a number of priesthoods working in Africa have described the "dark continent" as being the world's outstanding land that is "white for the harvest" for Christianity.

But, he pointed out, for every convert made to Christianity in Africa, the Mohammedans are making two.

Father Fournier said that his prime objective on the current movie making tour is to produce material which will be suitable for television, rather than to make pictures strictly for Catholic audiences.

The priest-movie producer said that he expects to gather sufficient material for 15 sound-color short movies on his present trip.

Famed Authors To See Play

Ventnor, N. J.—Actress Cornelia Otis Skinner and Emily Kimbrough, co-authors of "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," will be in the audience when the musical version of their best seller is presented by St. James Players on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 4 and 5, in St. James School Hall, Ventnor.

The show will be highlighted by 17 musical compositions, of which 16 were written by the Rev. Charles E. Zimmer, assistant pastor, moderator of the St. James Players. Miss Elena De Hellebranth, of Ventnor, well known mural painter and portraitist, wrote "Give Me Tomorrow" which will be introduced in the Players' production.

Miss Carol Merendino and Miss Dolores McElroy play Miss Skinner and Miss Kimbrough respectively. In the play which was inspired by the Skinner-Kimbrough visit to Paris in post-college days. Male leads are played by William Sharp and Harry Sweeney.

Tickets will be on sale at the door Friday and Saturday nights.

Roseland Lists Teeter Stars

Free outdoor entertainment at Roseland Park, Canandaigua this week will feature the Lang Troupe, bounding tumbling, teeter board stars who perform nightly through Sunday, September 6.

This will be the final free presentation at Roseland Park this year. All rides and games in the park however will remain open through Sunday September 20.

An added spectacular attraction will occur on Saturday, September 20.

An added spectacular attraction will occur on Saturday, Sept. 5, when Canandaigua Lake Cottagers will stage the first "Fall Festival of Fire".

Lakeshore residents will light brilliant red flares all along the shore at a signal to be given at 9:00 p.m. This mighty glowing signal will be answered at 9:15 p.m. by massed flares from the surrounding hills in much the same way that the Seneca Indians signalled and answered with fire long ago.

On Labor Day, Sept. 7, the dancers, singers and instrumentalists from Leonard Williams classes will present their big annual Amateurs Show featuring some of the area's most talented youngsters. This show gets under way at 9:00 p.m.

LEGION OF DECENCY

The following are titles of films reviewed this week by the National Legion of Decency. Add these to the complete listing which will be published once a month.

Class A, Section 1

All American, The
Mr. Scoutmaster
Northern Patrol

Class A, Section 2

Trail of the Arrow
Actress, The
Clipped Wings
Plunder of the Sun

Family Radio Rosary Leaders

Saturday, Sept. 5 — Walter Wegman, St. Cecilia;

Sunday, Sept. 6 — Robert J. Reynolds, Nativity of the B.V.M., Brockport;

Monday, Sept. 7 — Francis L. Claus, Our Lady of Perpetual Help;

Tuesday, Sept. 8 — Frank Culotta, St. Joseph, Penfield, accompanied by employes of Camera Works;

Wednesday, Sept. 9—Earle E. Schwartzott, Blessed Sacrament;

Thursday, Sept. 10 — Robert Solan, Holy Cross, accompanied by members of the Men's Club of Holy Cross;

Friday, Sept. 11 — Michael Adams, St. Francis Xavier.

Bishop Sheen Contributes $1,000 For Flood Relief

Fukuoka — (NC) — A donation of $1,000 from Bishop Fulton Sheen, Auxiliary of New York, has been received by the Catholic Flood Relief Committee, it was announced here. Accompanying the contribution was a letter in which the Prelate expressed his deep sympathy with the flood sufferers and gave an assurance of his earnest prayers. Bishop Sheen made a short visit to Japan in 1947.

Rosary Leaders Set On Auburn's WMBO

Saturday, Sept. 5 — Francis O'Connor, St. Aloysius;
Monday, Sept. 7—Donald Mack, St. Hyacinth;
Tuesday, Sept. 8—Allen Miskell, SS. Peter and Paul;
Wednesday, Sept. 9—Leonard Green, St. Mary;
Thursday, Sept. 10 — Virgil Izzo, St. Francis of Assisi;
Friday, Sept. 11—Ray Wall Jr., Holy Family.

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