

Current Theatre

By EUPHEMIA WYATT



WHO'LL SAVE THE PLOWBOY? No, it isn't an Irish folk play. Set in a dreary flat in New York, it investigates the relationship between a former G.I., Albert Cobb, who was saved by a buddy in the War and Larry who risked his life in the act. Nothing has gone well for Cobb but, in spite of the monotony of reading meters for Con Edison and squabbles with a disagreeable wife, Cobb feels very grateful indeed to Larry whom he hasn't seen for years.

The news that Larry is coming that evening is the cue for a celebration which with the Cobbs means a dozen cans of beer. When Larry arrives, however, nothing turns out as Albert expected and a situation develops which explodes in very real emotion.

The Phoenix Theatre has discovered a new American playwright, Frank D. Conroy, whose first play treats three ordinary people with perception and sympathy and with a keen sense of values and dramatic construction and also with complete economy in dialogue. It is acted with insight by Gerald O'Loughlin, William Smithers and Rebecca Darke and directed by Daniel Petrie. The Phoenix hopes to hold it over for a longer engagement than is scheduled.

PLAYS FOR BLEEKER STREET—These three one act plays, by Thornton Wilder are from the two series he is writing: *The Seven Ages of Man* and *The Seven Deadly Sins*. *INFANCY* and *CHILDHOOD* are in the first series and both possess in a minor way the Wilder hallmark. *INFANCY* shows us Central Park and two large perambulators.

In one is Tommy propelled by Milly, an exuberant nursemaid; in the other is Moe, whose Mother confesses he can only be pacified by a recitation of the multiplication tables of the names of the five boroughs. Both infants resent baby talk and howl for education. They are played fervently and convincingly by adults. Patrolman Avanzino assures us that he distrusts all babies.

CHILDHOOD, dramatizes the gulf of misunderstanding between children and parents. The children are happily playing a game of make-believe about their parents' funeral and, then as orphans, set off on a dream trip where Daddy is the conductor and Mummy a passenger in mourning to whom they try to be kind. After an encounter with Indians they vote to return home.

SOMEONE FROM ASSISI is inept both in writing and production and a mistake from beginning to end for both Mr. Wilder and Mr. Quintero, the director. St. Clare is vapid; St. Francis meandering.

ROMULUS—Known to history as Romulus Augustulus, he was the last of the Roman Emperors and around the downfall of the Roman Empire, Friedrich

Duerrenmatt has written a drama adapted by Gore Vidal. Herr Duerrenmatt has no compunction about changing history to suit his fable. Fifth century Roman emperors lived in Ravenna.

The playwright has moved Romulus back to Rome. He actually ruled for a year, on the stage he has ruled for twenty. Placed on the throne as a boy of fourteen by his father, who was a general, Romulus, in the play, is a professor of history who married the daughter of an hereditary Emperor and has a beautiful young princess. But Duerrenmatt and history agree that when Ottaker (Odoacer) at the head of the mutinous Goths in the Imperial Army seizes the person of the Emperor, not only is his life spared but his conqueror gives Romulus the use of the splendid Lucullan villa near Naples and a pension of nearly \$20,000 a year.

Why? Because, according to the play, Romulus and Ottaker turn out to be the same type of man — both prefer poultry breeding to war and admire the classics. If it is meant to be a plea against racism then why does Vidal have the Gothic soldiers appear in Teutonic uniforms with much clicking of heels? The Theoderic, named in the program who appears as Ottaker's aide and nephew is evidently meant to be Theoderic the Great, who 14 years later slew Ottaker and became a very fine Emperor but he was no kin at all to Ottaker and only adds to the historical confusion.

The real weakness of the play, however, is that ACT I is rather forced farce with Romulus acting the "silly ass" and only interested in his hens and eggs while the richest Roman is a manufacturer of the "pants" made fashionable by the Goths. Then suddenly the Emperor refuses to let the pants tycoon buy off the Goths on condition he can marry the Princess and in Act II we find Romulus has deliberately neglected any defense program because he thought the effete Roman Empire should fall and that he is fearless about facing death with conspirators and Ottaker.

As Cyril Ritchard is a specialist in insincerity he has to make a supreme effort to make his Romulus sincere at the end. Cathleen Nesbit is a beautiful Empress; Howard Da Silva, a powerful Ottaker; Ted van Griet huysen and Suzanne Osborne, the ill-fated young lovers. Oliver Smith has a splendid set of Hadrian's villa in Tivoli showing signs of decay which is not evident in Lucinda Ballard's rich costumes.



Winter Frolic Planned

St. Stanislaus Sodality will hold a "Winter Frolic" at the parish auditorium tonight, Jan. 26, 8 to 11 p.m. Committee members have Mr. Snowman ready to greet guests. (John Stencik Photo)

CDA To Hear Indonesian

Owego — Miss Sonya Lahu-lima, a Foreign Aid student from Indonesia, who is attending the Owego Free Academy, will be the guest speaker at the March 6 meeting of the Catholic Daughters of America.

MRS. EDNA FRAWLEY and Mrs. Lorraine Camin are the program chairmen. Miss Lahu-lima attended the schools in Indonesia taught by the Catholic nuns. She will describe her life in her home town and how the methods differ from those in America.

Mrs. Thelma Deuel will act as general chairman of the entertainment committee. A short business meeting will be conducted by Mrs. Beatrice M. Cleveland, Grand Regent.

Legion Of Decency

Following are the Legion of Decency listings released this week. Complete listings appear in the Jan. 19 issue. Clip both and save.

Class A, Section 1
Basilful Elephant, The Cinderella

Class A, Section 3
Sweet Bird of Youth
Observation: This picture is being advertised as adult entertainment.

Class B
No Love For Johnny
Objection: Gross suggestiveness in treatment offsets what value this film may have as a study of a political opportunist.

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Theatre Guide

- MONROE**
Seven Wonders of the World (Unobjectionable) A-1
- RIVIERA**
Babes in Toyland A-1
- PARAMOUNT**
Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone (Unobjectionable for adults) A-3
- LOEW'S**
One, Two, Three A-3
- PALACE**
The Innocents World By Night (Unobjectionable) A-3 B
- LITTLE**
Carousel (Unobjectionable for adults and adolescents) A-2
- CINEMA**
Carry On, Constable Not listed
- FINE ARTS**
The Bridge A-2

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Engaged

Auburn — Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Burns of Chedell Pl. announce the engagement of their daughter, Catherine Ann, to John J. Flynn, son of Mrs. Francis Flynn of Seymour St. and the late Mr. Flynn. A fall wedding is planned.

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12x20'11"	Martini All Wool Wilton	360	231	12x18'4"	Eggshell All Wool Wilton	312	198
12x14'5"	Beige All Wool Wilton	250	158	12x10'5"	Gold 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	140	98
12x17'5"	Cafe au lait All Wool Textured Wilton	300	190	12x18'	White 100% Nylon Cont. Filament	240	180
12x19'4"	Grey-Green All Wool Textured Wilton	335	215	12x12'	Off White 100% Nylon Cont. Filament	160	110
12x15'7"	Blue All Wool Wilton	270	170	15x9'	Straw 100% Nylon Cont. Filament	150	100
12x10'4"	Gold All Wool Textured Wilton	175	112	15x12'	Sandalwood 100% Nylon Cont. Filament	200	160
12x17'	Sand All Wool Wilton	295	185	12x13'	Delphinium 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	173	130
12x12'	Grey-Green All Wool Wilton	208	130	12x14'	Delphinium 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	188	140
12x20'	Cafe au lait All Wool Wilton	355	225	12x12'	Lilac 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	160	125
12x12'	Cafe au lait 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	160	110	15x20'	Sandalwood 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	334	240
12x19'3"	Gold 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	256	185	12x17'	Mocha 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	230	175
12x13'	Egg Shell 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	173	120	12x19'	Mocha 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	254	190
12x10'5"	Sand 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	140	98	12x17'	Mocha 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	230	175
12x11'4"	Gold 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	150	105	15x18'	White 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	300	230
12x11'10"	White All Wool Wilton	206	128	15x14'	Sandalwood 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	240	180
12x14'3"	Gold All Wool Wilton	247	157	15x16'6"	Sandalwood 100% Dupont 501 Nylon	275	185

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