

Theatre News

The Old Vic

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

THE OLD VIC — The fame of the ROMEO AND JULIET, staged by Franco Zeffirelli in London in October, 1960, proved not to be exaggerated. The "braves" could not be hushed during the performance. What Signor Zeffirelli has accomplished is to infuse a contemporary vitality into the tragedy which gives it closer kinship to its offspring, WEST SIDE STORY.

As with the operas he has staged all over Europe and in Texas, Zeffirelli has designed the decor which is subdued in color, the opening street scene showing the weathered stoops of this old city which no doubt still stands in the Verona of 1962.

THE CAPULETS party has the perspective of a painting; the balcony is a long solid terrace with marble balustrade and a clipped evergreen on either side, one of which helps Romeo climb up to Juliet. Kisses not being left for another day by these two explosive young lovers brimming over with zest for love and life.

Joanna Dunham is endearingly forthright in the innocent avowal of her emotion; John Stride has played his boyishly fiery Romeo throughout a tour of Italy. This time Tybalt is a handsome blonde youth in a rose colored doublet and it is Mercutio, who is bearded and in black. A mercurial Mercutio who moves about rapidly during the Queen Mab story making winged gestures with his voluminous black cloak.

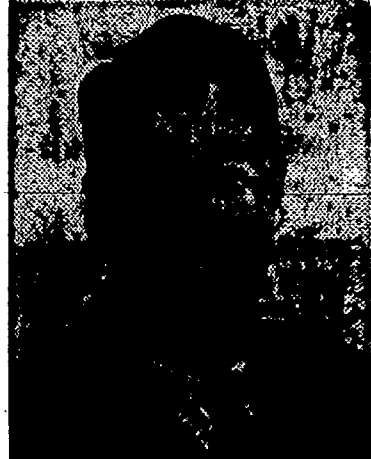
His duel with Tybalt has plenty of action and variety. When he knocked Tybalt's sword to the ground, Mercutio mockingly polishes the handle before returning it. No one but Mercutio himself realizes his wound is fatal until he topples over, dead. The duel between Romeo and Tybalt is brief as it is violent. Rosalind Atkinson's Nurse is a masterpiece. Gerald James' Friar Lawrence only fair.

Juliet is most beautiful when lying on the tombs where she and Romeo are placed side by side for the final curtain. But it's not only the principals but each individual member of the large cast who contribute to the fame of this ROMEO AND JULIET, so brilliant yet so sensitive to its poetry.

MACBETH directed by Michael Benthal was seen here in 1955. This one is less strident. Stone work has superceded the rocks and cliffs while tartans and bagpipes have yielded to eleventh century helmets and furred pelts designed by Michael Annals. The scarlet of royal robes had a sweeping magnificence. John Clements' Macbeth is clearly an honest soldier at the outset, lacking the steel lined nervous system of a gangster. Barbara Jefford as Lady Macbeth is small and viperish. The only American in the company, William Sylvester was a spirited and handsome MacDuff. What was most remarkable about the production was the general excellence of the diction — not a word sturred. Mr. Benthal realized the horrendous quality of the witches' lines — all were audible.

THE ASPERN PAPERS — Two intangibles, the atmosphere of Venice and of Henry James have been captured by Michael Redgrave in his dramatization of James' elusive story. The high reeling drawing-room of a dilapidated Venetian palazzo with rickety shutters opening on a garden is shown in the pale greenish sunlight of a canal.

Here lives an ancient lady in



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DCCW Head Appoints Committee Chairmen

Mrs. Julian G. Humiston, President of the Rochester Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women has made the following new appointments to the standing committees:

COOPERATING WITH Social Agencies, Vice-chairman, Mrs. John A. Muzdakis, Canandaigua; Family and Parent Education, Chairman, Mrs. Richard L. Weider, Rochester; vice-chairman, Mrs. Frank Lyke, Manchester; International and Inter-American Relations, vice chairman, Mrs. Thomas W. McWhinney, Rochester; Organization and Development, vice-chairman, Mrs. Bruce Zimmerman, Wolcott; Public Relations, Chairman, Miss Mildred Jennings, Geneva.

Crowley, Macedon. This will be an open meeting and all interested in the work of the council are invited.

Father Curran Reviews Novel

"A fine treatment of a basic human problem, the superior-subject relationship," was the comment of the Rev. Charles Curran, in reviewing Michael Novak's novel, "The Tiber Was Silver." His critique was given last Tuesday at the Noonday Book Review in the Catholic Evidence Library.

"THIS THEME has been explored before, of course, the frustration of a sensitive, artistic, idealistic subject in the face of his superior's unsympathetic, unimaginative leadership. Novak's protagonists are an American seminarian in Rome and his tradition-bound rector."

"It's a valid problem for a novelist, and Novak's answer is a deeply Christian and artistically satisfying one."

Father Curran, professor of Moral Theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, was himself a seminarian studying in Rome during the years in which author Novak was also there, as a seminarian. Mr. Novak left the seminary after two years of Theology and is presently a Graduate Fellow at Harvard University.

"I wouldn't call Novak an 'angry young man,' as much as a very intense one, with certain views to express. This novel has served a valuable purpose, and is certainly to be recommended to the adult Catholic reader."

The next quarterly board meeting of the Diocesan Council will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 1. There will be recitation of the Rosary for the conversion of Russia and World Peace followed by Benediction in St. Patrick's Church, Macedon.

The business meeting will be held in the church hall at 3 p.m. There will be a buffet supper served at 5:30 p.m. by St. Patrick's Ladies Guild.

Reservations deadline Thursday, March 29 with Mrs. Gerald

Pope's Gift In TR Home

Oyster Bay, N.Y. — (RNS) — Sagamore Hill, summer home here of President Theodore Roosevelt which houses a number of objects with religious significance came a step closer to being declared a National Shrine with a visit by members of the Congressional Sub-Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

The home and the Theodore Roosevelt House in Manhattan, where the 26th President was born, have been offered to the federal government as National Shrines by the Theodore Roosevelt Association headed by Oscar S. Straus.

Both landmarks would become shrines under a bill pending in Congress. Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has announced his acceptance of the properties which would be administered by the National Park Service. The association also has offered to give the government \$500,000 for the shrines' upkeep.

Among religious and other priceless historic objects at Sagamore Hill is a mosaic garden scene, measuring three feet by 18 inches, presented to President Roosevelt by his close friend Pope Leo XIII in 1905.

'Wastrels' On Skis

Valeau City — (RNS) — A Rome Dominican priest, writing in Osservatore della Domenica, Valeau City weekly paper, struck out again against the "idle rich" at international winter sports resorts, calling them "habitual wastrels."

Writing especially for skiers, Father Reginaldo Francisco divided them into three classes: Sunday skiers, luxury skiers and champions.

He said Sunday skiers, if practiced moderately and care is taken against risk of profaning the Sabbath, "must not be discouraged."

On the other hand, he said, luxury skiers can afford to spend weeks at big resorts international gatherings of "which by now have become the idle rich."

New Brochure

The New York State Division of Veterans Affairs has published a small brochure entitled "Facts for Members of the Armed Forces." This timely Division publication contains summary form information of interest for Reservists, National Guardsmen and others who are ordered into active Federal service.

Copies of this new brochure may be obtained free of charge from the Monroe County Veterans' Service Agency, 168 Clinton Avenue South, Rochester, New York.

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Guests At Deanery Luncheon

FATHER JAMES F. O'CONNELL, (second from left) pastor of St. Mary's Church, Waterloo and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward K. Ball, V.F., of St. Francis Church, Geneva, were guests at a luncheon in Geneva sponsored by the Ontario-Seneca-Yates Deanery of Diocesan Catholic Women. Miss Betty Teller, Waterloo, Deanery president at left with Mrs. Julian Humiston of Stanley, President of the Diocesan Council, right. (Photo by P. B. Oakley, Geneva)

Annual Meet Held By Seton Units

The annual business meeting of the chairmen of the Seton Branches of St. Mary's Hospital was held in the Nurses' Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m.

MRS. FRANK P. TOOLAN, chairman of the Women's Board of the hospital, and retiring chairman of Seton Branches, introduced the newly appointed Seton chairman, Mrs. Thomas J. Meagher, and her co-chairman, Mrs. Charles Seufert, both members of the Women's Board.

Other officers are elective and the following slate was approved: Vice-chairman, Mrs. Harry Hetzel; corresponding secretary, Mrs. George Johaneck;

Board, who sponsor the Seton Branches. After reports of all committees were read, business transacted, and plans for the coming year discussed, the group were the guests at luncheon of Sister Mary Ellen, administrator of St. Mary's.

Mardi Gras Plans Set

Ithaca — Final plans are being made for the Mardi Gras celebration of the Immaculate Conception Parish, to be held on March 3 at the VFW Hall. All tickets have been sold and no more reservations can be accepted.

William H. Sullivan, chairman of the entertainment committee, reports that eight numbers will be performed by the members of the Dance Reception School of the Dance. There will also be group singing and surprise acts throughout the evening.



New Youth Club In Auburn

OFFICERS OF THE newly formed Youth Club at Sacred Heart Parish, Auburn, confer with Rev. George Wiant, left, assistant pastor and youth director. From left are George Greule, president; James Davis, treasurer; Cheryl Leader, vice president; and Linda Hoedley, secretary.

Radio To Air Pope's Talk

New York — (NC) — The four major radio networks on March 7, at Wednesday, will broadcast a message from Pope John XXIII to the Catholic school children of the United States, urging them to contribute to the 1962 Bishops' Relief Fund Appeal.

The time at which the four networks — NBC, CBS, ABC and Mutual — will carry the Pope's message has not yet been set, but it is expected that it will be during the daytime hours so that the children may listen to the broadcast in school.

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