



Bachelor Among the Small-Fry

Anyone who is sailing in the area of the South Pacific this season and happens to catch his fish hook on a Greyhound Bus — well, it belongs to Dick Kinter, popular young musical comedy star appearing this season at East Rochester's Town and Country Musical.

The story goes back to Dick's days in the Navy aboard an aircraft carrier where he was ordered to put together a variety show for the crew. This was such a relief after enduring the nightly bingo games, that Dick lapped up the opportunity of showing his talents.

Setting for the show, including the ill-fated bus, were built and decorated from various materials available aboard ship, thousands of miles from anywhere: deck paint, card board, canvas and tissue paper. To safeguard these theatrical treasures, Dick had them stored away for the grand opening.

He did not count on the supply ship that arrived the next day, nor the innocent gobs who, to make room for less important items (like ammunition), dumped Dick's works of art into the briny deep.

So, if you're down Tahiti, keep your eye peeled for Dick's bus.

Although a bachelor, Dick Kinter spends more time now working for and with children than most parents.

When not directing or performing in one of Town and Country's full schedule of children's productions, he is writing or rewriting plays he thinks will appeal to the small-fry.

"Children don't go for a lot of talk," says Dick. "They want action and plenty of it. A character must be established immediately as the hero, the villain or the comedian."

If they don't get what they want on stage, or what they have been led to expect, they have no qualms about shouting to the actor what his next move should be.

"I have found, though," Dick states, "that I never play to the kids themselves, but to the adults accompanying them. And the kids always catch on. The mistake is to play 'down' to them."

A graduate of Carnegie Tech School of Drama in his native Pittsburgh, Dick's theatre experience has been vast and varied — drama, musical comedy, radio, industrial shows and shipboard tragedy. But his eyes really light up when he talks about audiences of kids. His heart's with the small-fry.



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