



Pickets protest production of Rolf Hochhuth's play "The Deputy" in front of New York's Brooks Atkinson Theatre.



Theater New.

Who Listened to The Pope During First World War?

By EUPHEMIA WYATT



The Deputy—As the curtain rises and as it falls, they are shuffling by—the agonizing lie of Nazi victims; old women, old men, young girls, little children clinging to their mothers. "We never separate the children from their mothers." Says the SS Doctor. No, not even on the way to the gas chambers!

This, prologue and epilogue, staged by Herman Shumlin, director and co-producer, makes it difficult to review the play objectively when one realizes that we are watching what was actually the extermination of six million Jewish people. All scenes are set in the ghetto of Warsaw, Poland, in the 1930's. The play is a personal protest from the Pope who could halt the massacre.

It is the fatal weakness of the play that Rolf Hochhuth, the German playwright, presents a caricature instead of a rounded portrait of Pope Pius XII. Emlyn Williams, made up as a counterpart of the waxen image in St. Patrick's Cathedral, playing him, not as a strong man torn between conflicting dangers to humanity, but as an opportunist and hypocrite.

Having lived through World War I when Benedict XV's efforts for peace were continuously snubbed, I now realize that if ever occurred to me during World War II that anyone, least of all Hitler, would have paid any attention to a protest from the Vatican.

It was the charity of Pope John which found a world and a peace and must have led Hochhuth to believe that papal intervention might have saved millions of Jews.

He discounts the thousands, mentioned in the play, who were ransomed or given sanctuary by the Church in Italy. What would have happened as a result of Rome's challenge of Nazism, must remain a fascinating problem but hardly Hochhuth's forgotten conclusion.

Plus XII foresaw the Red Peril and knew the double disasters that followed the Dutch bishops' defiance of Hitler. He must have suffered. Perhaps he envied the young Jesuit who put on the Star of David and went to die with his Jewish brothers in Auschwitz.

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Foxy was also running but under the name of Volpone. Ben Johnson's farcical satire on avarice. Now with book by Ian Hunter and Ring Lardner Jr., it has been moved from Venice to the Klondike where men fought for gold dust and died, starved and froze, in 1893.

Once again Mosca (the Gadfly) now Dr. Mosk, persuades three friends that Foxy (Volpone) is dying with a fortune in gold nuggets which he will leave to his best man, a Sicilian (the Crow), Buzzard (the Vulture), Bedrock (the Raven) all vie with each other in bringing gifts to Foxy, even the bride of a few hours.

Larry Blyden plays Dr. Mosk, the Gadfly, with a lightness, reminiscent of old Italian pantomime—a graceful and clever performance. The music and the Klondike girls are both rollicking. Less scardonic than Volpone, Foxy is, at best, an ugly story mitigated by Bert Lahr, his good-nature and his comedy. Long life to him!

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, Mar. 6, 1954 11

Pope Pius, Nazi Scapegoat

THE DEPUTY, a "controversial" drama accusing Pope Pius XII of silence in the face of Nazi atrocities against the Jews during World War II, opened last week at New York's Brooks Atkinson Theatre.

"Controversial" is the terminology of the ticket-selling agent, the public relations man, and the witch hunter for a play which might not quite make it on Broadway with an unknown playwright's name, on an unpopular context.

THE DEPUTY, as with other "controversial" plays, was readily picketed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Ad Hoc Committee (whoever they are) and the swastikaed troops of the late Pope Pius. Scores were interviewed by the daily press. None had read THE DEPUTY. None had seen it—this was opening night.

And so we begin. This theme of THE DEPUTY seems to be that we are our brother's keeper, that we share in a world responsibility, that we share a burden of guilt.

No one can deny it. Necessarily, our first question

about THE DEPUTY must be "Is it good drama?" Unfortunately, it deals with the character of Pius XII, dead only six years, making him a "controversial" figure. We resent this at the outset because we "knew" him.

St. Joan of Arc, Savonarola, Luther, Thomas Becket, famous "controversial" personages of history, have been treated on the stage with both frozen laurels and we have accepted such offerings on their dramatic value because none of us "knew" them personally.

On the whole, THE DEPUTY reads "good," reviews from the New York critics. They did not overlook individually fine performances by individual actors or the strength of certain scenes—but even they were hoodwinked by the appearance of Pius XII, too close in memory to be treated completely in the theater vein.

What puts us "out of joint" is the characterization of Pius as a world leader whose weakness, timidity or policy of convenience allowed the slaughter of millions of Jews.

Playwright Rolf Hochhuth's major premise in THE DEPUTY would seem to be that Pope Pius XII did not use his enormous power to oppose Hitler's "final solution" of the Jews.

Academy Sets Theatre Day

Ninth Annual Theatre Day of the Rochester Unit, National Catholic Theatre Conference, will be held at Nazareth Academy on Saturday, March 14.

BISHOP CASEY will preside at the Award Banquet at 12:15 p.m. when the Commandant's Award of the Order of St. Genesius will be conferred on Monsignor John S. Randall. Tribute will be given by Sister Helen Daniel, president of Nazareth Academy.



Ray Fagan Forms Band

Rochester's veteran orchestra leader Ray Fagan, is forming his fourth orchestra. Besides furnishing music for every city industrial company in Rochester, Fagan took his orchestra on the "Scotch and Low" circuits which included two trips from coast to coast including engagements at both Eastman and Low theaters in Rochester.

The new orchestra will not have any age limit but will use musicians with special talent for solo bits. Fagan believes so-called big band business is coming back and reports already having more than one booking to encourage him in his new venture. He can be reached at HA 6-4596 for further information.

Individual members of these organizations carried placards charging "Anti-Christ" and "Bigot." They carried American flags and colored photos of the late Pope Pius. Scores were interviewed by the daily press. None had read THE DEPUTY. None had seen it—this was opening night.

Registration will be followed by the opening session at 10 a.m. at which greetings will be extended by Sister Jamesella, principal of Nazareth Academy; Sister M. St. Gertrude, chairman of the Rochester Unit; and Robert Smelt, Unit co-chairman.

Theme of the day, Medieval Theatre, will be explained by George Sherwood, owner and director of Bristol Hills Playhouse and School of Drama.

Productions to be presented during the day include: "Everyman," "Shakespeare's World of Love" and "Christmas in the Village Square."

Session chairmen will include: Sister M. Claidia, Sister Mary

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Monthly Musicales Set For Guests At St. Ann's

Through the generosity of the Rochester Musicians Union, St. Ann's Auxiliary has been able to present a musicale each month for the oldsters at St. Ann's Home.

Charles La Cava has arranged hour long performances, mid and even dance with them, then return them to their floors.

Barney Maslet's dance band played for the guests this month, and Ray Dunlap, will play the piano for them on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Also coming by are Sam Muscato of the Trumpet, April 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Arthur Gullis on the piano, May 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Response has been most enthusiastic, according to Mrs. Charles Haigh, chairman for February.

Among the most frequent Auxiliary volunteers on these evenings have been Mrs. Samuel Tomasselli, Mrs. Anthony Lett, Mrs. Fred Slick, Mrs. Ralph Vigna, and Mrs. Thomas Fischer.

Chairman for the March program is Mrs. Herman Resch. These and other volunteers escort the guests from their floors to the auditorium for the

Theatre Guide

(Catholics are reminded of a recent Legion of Decency advisory to avoid "not listed" films. Such films are usually the products of firms which fall to submit their films for Legion of Decency reviews. All major U.S. producers do cooperate with the Legion so it is a mark of loyalty to them as well as to one's pledge to see only those films rated acceptable by the Legion of Decency. Such action would also be an effective remedy for much of the current turmoil in the Rochester area about how best to curtail objectionable shows at drive-in theaters. —Editor)

MONROE
Misadventures of Merlin Jones
A-2
RIVIERA
Tom Jones
A-1
LITTLE
Irma LaDouce
A-2
PARAMOUNT
Dark Passage
He Runs Tall
A-2
REGENT
Love with the Proper Stranger
A-3
FINE ARTS
The Cardinal
A-3
LOEW'S
The Victrola
A-3
WARNING-EXELL
Strait-Jacket
A-3
PALACE
Soldier in the Rain
War Is Hell
A-2

'Suicidal' To Oppose Nazi Pogrom

Vatican City—(RNS)—Public condemnation of the Nazis by Pope Pius XII would have been a "suicidal provocation" resulting in the extermination of many more Jews and Roman Catholics than were killed during World War II, Osservatore Romano, the Vatican City newspaper, said here.

The comment was made in the first of a series of articles by the paper's editor, Raimondo Manzoni, in protest to Rolf Hochhuth's controversial drama, "The Deputy," which criticizes the late pontiff for not speaking out against the atrocities.

The article noted the current Broadway production of the play, commenting: "It seems that the New York critics confirm our judgment of the improbable character who is the Pius XII of Hochhuth. What ever may be the intention of the illusion or the pretension of the author, he has attributed to his character a psychology that is weak, calculating and equally worldly."

He exposes in ridicule the religious custom of pilgrimages and caustically depicts Catholic "rites as seductions of virgins and at-women-chasers."

One of Busch's fables tells of the special avian of the Jesuits. It is interesting that Hochhuth's "suicidal" circles in THE DEPUTY along the lines of this same slenderous idea.

In his introduction to the Busch works, Hochhuth tells the edition "a classic that would lure eyes children."

This is the man who wrote THE DEPUTY.
—ROBERT SMETT

Legion Of Decency

Class A, Section 1
F.B.I. Code 68
Swingin' Maiden, The
Class A, Section 2
Fiances, The
Class A, Section 3
Killers, The
Naked Kiss
Paris When It Sizzles
Observation: This classification is applicable only to prints shown in the U.S.
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ACCLAIMED by the N.Y. TIMES

WHO SELECTED IT AS "ONE OF THE TEN BEST PICTURES OF THE YEAR"

Cardinal Cushing says . . .
Off Kramling's new film, "The Cardinal," is a stunning picture based upon the novel (1950) by Henry Morton Robinson. Whether the movie is a faithful version of the book is not the point at the moment. Instead, judged on its own merits as a film about Catholic life, "The Cardinal" is superb story-telling, filmmaking and drama. It is among the best of the post-war pictures concerned with themes and personalities specifically Catholic.

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