Theater News

Traveler

By EPHEMIA WYATT

TRAVELER WITHOUT LUGGAGE. Is there an audience left for a play with an interesting story and — believe it or not — a happy ending? In 1937 when young Jean Anouilh wrote this comedy about an amnesia case of a French prisoner just sent back from Germany, there were still people old-fashioned enough to go to the theatre for entertainment. An energetically philanthropic Duchess has volunteered to help her favorite nephew, a psychiatrist, find the family of the attractive young man who lost his memory. Hundreds of French families have missing sons so the Duchess has chosen five of the most prepossessing applicants; the first on her list being the Renauds and it is to their country estate that the Duchess and her lawyer bring "Gaston" looking just as he should in the suit made for him by the ducal tailor. Madame Renaud, her son and daughter-in-law welcome "Gaston" as their "Jacques" as soon as they see him but "Gaston" remains aloof.

Delightfully excited the Duchess agrees to spend the [illegible] in the hope something [illegible] quicken "Gaston's" memory [illegible] everything that "Gaston" discovers about "Jacques" [illegible] 's to make the past more re[illegible] When he opens "Jacques'" treasure chest there is nothing in it but a huge sling[illegible] for birds — a gun and a hunting knife. Jacques was only eighteen when he left for the front but he had already crippled his best friend for life in a fight; had seduced the chambermaid of 15 and had had an affair with his sister-in-law.

Gaston is determined that he will remain Gaston and renounce the Renauds when his vicious sister-in-law, who still claims him, tells him of a proof of his identity. She assures he is trapped and so he would be if the play had been written nowadays but Anouilh saves both Gaston and his audience's feeling and achieves a happy if complicated ending. In 1937 his irony was not bitter. Robert Lewis as director has a cast who know how to act and revolve about Ben Gazzara as Gaston-Jacques who has a foot in two different worlds and has learned to choose the better one.

His unwilling awakening is shown sharply. His sense of humor is sure. Rae Allen as the chambermaid; Stephen Elliott as Gaston's brother; William Cottrell as the butler and Margaret Braidwood as the Duchess are outstanding.

THE ALCHEMIST. The poet Coleridge's curious statement that the three best plots in literature are The Alchemist, Tom Jones and Oedipus is vindicated as far as possible for Ben Jonson's seventeenth century farce by the current production which is spectacularly good in its set and costumes and swallows up the long speeches in its rapid action. The story is of swindlers and their victims who are coeval with Eden; only the substance of their frauds showing a marked difference.

Those who now would be dealers in bogus stocks or real estate were then purveyors of magic or alchemy which was the imaginary science of changing bases metals into gold. A servant, whose master has gone on a journey, invites two friends to visit him and the two rascals and their Moll soon have half of London knocking at their door. Two Puritans with long faces are anxious to gamble the hardware of their widows and orphans; a tobacconist pay royally for a magic sign; a country boy brings his widowed sister to seek a rich husband; an ambitious youth — who might now be a Beatle — empties his pockets for an interview with the Fairy Queen! And what a purseful of English history rolls out: shillings of Edward and James; an old Harry sovereign; 3 Philip and Marie nobles; an Elisabeth groat.

Directed by Stephen Porter with clever decor and costumes by Lloyd Burlingame, the old farce shouts its way through to the return of the master and house-owner who, for the sake of the pretty widow forgives his servant and keeps the spoils of the two other swindlers who escape. In all likelihood, Ben Jonson rarely had lustier production.

THE COMMITTEE. Two former members of Second City (Chicago) created this revue in San Francisco where it ran for eighteen months in its own theatre, but to appreciate a topical revue it is essential to have the same wave lengths of humor. To me electrocution and perversion are not intrinsically funny; nor was the endless discussion of their vacation by two college girls.

The pantomime was better and the best was when the cast of five men and two girls each impersonated a different instrument in an orchestra and produced "Mary had a Little Lamb" with variations. There is the inevitable PTA meeting; a cocktail party trying frenziedly to make a negro feel at home; mocks at Goldwater and Adlai Stevenson and a remarkable reproduction of a mechanical man. Charm is sublimated; the spiced humor is bitter; the laughs corrosive but San Francisco loved it.

Legion Of Decency

The following are the titles of the films reviewed this week to be used in their respective classification of the Legion of Decency. Clip and save.

Class A, Section 1
Murder Ahoy

Class A, Section 2
Blood On The Arrow
Night Walker, The

Class A, Section 3
Rio Conchos

This year's Seton Ball will honor Bishop Kearney on his 80th birthday. The Nov. 27th social highlight of the late autumn season will be arranged by Mrs. Roy Hock, Mrs. E. Garrett Cleary, Mrs. Thomas Gallagher and an extensive committee. Invitations to the Ball were mailed this week.

Dear Loretta Young

Broken Family

By MISS LORETTA YOUNG

Dear Loretta:

A year ago, my husband of eighteen years left me and our three children. I went into deep shock and down to eighty-two pounds. He filed for divorce a month after he left. I phoned him and wrote letters begging him not to do this to us. I refused to believe that there was another woman even when he wrote: "I intend to remarry as soon as possible—by doing this I will force you to do the same so the children can have a father. These were just words on paper; they did not penetrate the thick fog I was in. All I wanted was to have him back—I didn't even know enough to contest the divorce. My parish priest told me to go ahead and get the divorce, that he would come back. My lawyer was inept and disinterested. I was like a robot in a horrible dream. The divorce went through a couple of months later and then I found that my husband had remarried even before the divorce was received due to other complications.

I am not indulging myself in self-pity but it tears my heart in pieces when I think how one day my babies had a kind, loving father and now he is gone. It is all so very useless. The woman he married is a divorcee with children. He has an excellent job but he has even turned his back on us financially.

Miss Young, can anything be done about this divorce? I did not want it and I don't think he wanted it either. Would it help if I wrote to the Pope? I would like to reopen the case so I could ask for a separation. All I want is a fair chance.

Sincerely,
Hurt Wife and Mother

Dear Mother:

I would suggest at this point that you find yourself a good, honest, Catholic lawyer. Since you are both Catholics, he will understand your case better.

I believe all states have a law whereby the father is financially responsible for his children until they are twenty-one, and for his wife until, or unless, she marries again. The fact that your husband married another woman before his divorce from you was final should certainly be enough for a good lawyer to start with.

As to his moral responsibility to you and his children—I am afraid that even the Pope himself would have a hard time setting your husband straight at this time. Prayer, of course, is your strongest weapon. Prayer and more prayer. Remember that Jesus promised us: "Whatever you ask the Father in My Name shall be given to you." If I were you, I would storm heaven with my prayers and those of my children.

Sincerely,
Loretta

"Jilted"

Dear Loretta:

I am seventeen years old and met an eighteen year old boy about a year and a half ago. He gave me his class ring to wear and we went steady. It was a wonderful, good, clean relationship. We had lots of fun together and enjoyed being with one another. A few months ago he wanted his ring back and said I should go with other boys because he wanted it that way. I haven't seen him since. Just a week before this, he said: "If this were only two years later I would ask you to marry me." What do you think?

Broken Hearted

Dear "Broken Hearted":

This not only hits your heart but also your pride. But look at it this way: He was man enough not to tie you up without a definite marriage date set. There is a great difference between going steady and being actually engaged. Obviously, he was not ready, nor willing, nor able, to become engaged at eighteen and he was honest enough to tell you. Learn to be grateful for truthfulness in affairs of the heart. It will save you more serious heartbreaks later on in life. You must now go your separate way in a friendly and dignified manner.

Sincerely,
Loretta

(Miss Young welcomes letters and questions for answer in this column. Write to her, care of A/M Publications, 41 East 41st St., New York 17, N.Y.)

Christmas Play For Sponsoring

Blackfriars, local theater group, is offering its annual Christmas play to parish and fraternal units to be performed for holiday meetings during the month of December.

This year's one-act play is entitled, "A Gift for the Emperor."

Groups interested in sponsoring a performance should contact Robert Smett, ID 6-7275 or BA 5-8210.

Fashion Show Sponsored By Geneva Court

Geneva—Latest in fall and winter fashions were highlighted at the annual fashion show of Court Annunciation, Catholic Daughters of America, recently in Club 86.

Mrs. Shirley De Francesco was chairman of the show with Miss Dorothy Linehan, cochairman.

Fashions modeled were from McCurdy's of Geneva with Mrs. Barbara Dean commentator for the show.

The local court sponsors the event annually for the benefit of the scholarship fund for a high school student.

Models were Mrs. Ann Monaco, Miss Mary Beth Monaco, Mrs. Jean Loccarini, Miss Carolyn Antinelli, Mrs. Mary Powers, Mrs. Olive Kelleher, Mrs. Gertrude O'Malley, Mrs. Virginia Tracy, Mrs. Helen Martino, Mrs. Patricia Bucklin, Mrs. Ann Peck, Mrs. Mary Zappia, Mrs. Colleen Venturino, Miss Kathy Venturino, Mrs. Ursula DeDuro, Mrs. Lorraine Maher and Mrs. Mary Felicetti.

Waterloo K.C. Slates Degree

Waterloo—Twelve candidates will receive the Second Degree of the Knights of Columbus Sunday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. with Waterloo Council No. 464 as host.

Candidates who received their first degree in June for Waterloo and Seneca Falls councils are being told to be present at the K. of C. Home on Locust St. at 7 p.m.

Grand Knight James Van Nortwick at the Sept. 15 meeting informed the council that through the efforts of Lecturer Frank Bonacci, football films of the 1964 Waterloo Indians' games will be shown each Tuesday night through November at the K. of C. Home. A larger than usual attendance is expected for these showings.

Asks Magazines For Veterans

Anyone desiring to donate current Catholic magazines, National Geographic or other magazines or pocket editions of current books to Canandaigua Veterans Hospital may leave them at 125 East Ave., East Rochester, N.Y. Mrs. Agnes Arnold will take care of their delivery to the hospital.

'Merry Widow' Listed For Auditorium Stage

"The Merry Widow," gayest of all musicals comes to Rochester Nov. 2 with its complete New York cast, starring Patrice Munsel to play a one-week engagement at the Auditorium Theatre.

The Music Theatre's "Merry Widow" comes to Rochester fresh from its record-breaking engagement at the New York State Theatre, where it piled up the highest grosses ever recorded in Broadway history. Franz Lehar's music, first heard in Vienna in 1905, was a great hit again with the Broadway critics and audiences who heard it the Lincoln Center revival.

The newest production was staged by Richard Rodgers, who presides as president and producing director of the Music Theatre of New York's Lincoln Center. Miss Munsel's Prince Danilo is Bob Wright.

Others who participate in the romantically melodic goings-on at Maxim's and other Paris boites include Mischa Auer, Sig Arno, Frank Terretta, Joan Weldon, Joseph Leon, Wood Romoff and Robert Goss.

"The Merry Widow" was first produced in New York in 1907 at the New Amsterdam. It is famed for its lilting waltz and for the song "Villa" and also for the can-can which it popularized. The latest revival is perhaps the most opulent ever presented of the celebrated operetta — extravagant costumes swirling dances, rich settings a smashing collection of can-can girls, a superb set of voices to sing its immortal scores.

There will be matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2 p.m. with evening performances at 8:30 p.m.

Family Rosary Radio Program

Friday, Oct. 2 — Father Michael J. Downing, C.SS.R. accompanied by Kolping Society.

Saturday, Oct. 3—Dr. Joseph Arleno, Christ the King. (Mass to be celebrated.)

Sunday, Oct. 4—Rev. James H. Loughery, O.P., professor at Nazareth College.

Monday, Oct. 5—Louis Faust, St. Helen's of St. Thomas More Club.

Tuesday, Oct. 6—Father Anthony Calimeri with Catholic War Veterans.

Wednesday, Oct. 7 — Father Henry Atwell, editor, Catholic Courier.

Thursday, Oct. 8 — Howard Long, St. Charles Borromeo accompanied by Laymen's Retreat League of that parish.

Guild Plans Europe Trip

St. Anne's Guild had its fall meeting in the form of an outdoor steak roast at the home of Rene Gaelens, Flynn Road, Greece. Mrs. Loretta West, who took a summer trip to England and Ireland, and Ray Klem, who travelled the continent of Europe this year, showed slides.

Plans were discussed for further meetings and also the planned European excursion in the summer of 1965. This will be under the guidance of the Guild's Spiritual Director, Father John Skvorak.

Those interested in joining the St. Anne's Guild and enjoying the trip to Europe next summer may receive necessary information from the secretary Mrs. Mary Kirchgessner, 312 Thomas Ave.

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

"Historians of the future may remark on whether it was more important to have worked towards putting a man on the moon during the 1960's or to have worked toward averting the world famine of the 1970's." These are the works of Raymond Ewell, research expert of New York State University, who estimated that one of the worst famines in the history of the world will strike Asia, Africa and Latin America within the next twenty years.

The population of the three above-mentioned areas will increase by 900 million in that time. Mr. Ewell goes on to say that famine will affect possibly one billion persons and, "if this happens, as it appears very probable, it will be the most colossal catastrophe in history." But first look at the present. Every day of THIS week in these areas 10,000 people die of malnutrition. In the United States the average daily intake is 65 grams of animal protein. Thirty grams are the minimum requirement for adequate nutrition. Yet, in Peru the figure is 13; in Ceylon, 8; and in India, 6!

What do these figures mean to us, as we sit down three times a day to a choice of appetizing foods and afterwards scrape into the garbage can enough per meal to keep several persons alive for a week? What does this mean to us, members of the richest country in the world, where nine million families have two or more cars, where ten million families own stocks, where the average family's savings and investments are in excess of $5,000? What does this mean to us, members of the Mystical Body of Christ, that our fellow human beings, our brothers in Christ, creatures of God, are perishing?

Presently, each United States Catholic puts into the hands of the Vicar of Christ an average of 27 cents a year to care for the people of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is the poor people who are making great sacrifices, who are giving large proportions of their incomes. Yet, there are very few readers of this column who could not sit down right now and send the Holy Father at least $100 to avert the famine of the near future, to keep TODAY'S poor from starving to death. Remember, The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is the arm of the Holy Father for soliciting alms for the poor of the entire world.

GOD LOVE YOU to H.B. for $50 "I am enclosing $50 for the Holy Father to use as he sees fit. I am doing this in atonement for my sins and in honor of my deceased family." ... to D. and L.M. for $2 "We are youngsters aged five and eight. Because of the starving children in the world, we are each sending $1 on behalf of our grandfather who is very ill."

Send us your old gold and jewelry—the bracelet or ring you no longer wear, last year's gold eyeglass frames, the cuff links you never liked anyway. We will resell them and use the money to aid the Missions. Your semi-precious stones will be winning precious souls for Christ. Our address: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or your Diocesan Director, Rev. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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