

Theater News

## At the Drop Of Another Hat

by EUPHIMIA WYATT



AT THE DROP OF ANOTHER HAT—if you were to ask me where to spend the pleasant evening in New York, I would undoubtedly tell you with Flanders and Swann. It is true that they are only two men with one piano but they manage to make an evening seem all too short. In case you have never heard them, which I hope is not so for they paid us a visit some five or six years ago, Flanders is bearded and stocky and sits in a wheel chair; Swann, lighter in complexion and weight, sits on a piano stool.

They were students together at Oxford, met again after varying war experiences and began to entertain their friends with their songs for which Flanders writes the words. In 1956, they became professionals and since then have circled the world. It is Flanders who does the talking to which Swann listens with a marvellously rapt attention and apparently spontaneous amusement to the humor.

This in-team work is extraordinarily important. Their songs range in subject from American diets to British place names, from air travel to animals—the Armadillo, the Sloth and the celebrated ditty to the Gnu. The wit is keen but never unkind. In the cozy intimacy of the Booth Theatre, *The Drop of Another Hat* is even more agreeable than the first one.

**THE WILD DUCK**—Henrik Ibsen and Eugene O'Neill have written very different plays—"The Wild Duck" and "The Iceman Cometh" on the same theme—the dependence of men upon their dreams which Ibsen calls their illusions but which in the last analysis is the faith that man has in the man he set out to be. This is the innate faith to which men cling as their last shred of self respect. The more unsuccessful the man the more he clings to his dream.

O'Neill's "Iceman" is the group study of some "down and

outs" in a Bowery saloon. Once men of some calibre, they hold on to a remnant of decency by imagining what they could do were they to face the world again.

In "The Wild Duck," Hjalmar survives on the dream of himself as a great inventor. His father, once disastrously involved in a financial scandal, remembers himself as a sportsman and shoots at rabbits instead of bears. As a symbol Ibsen has a wild duck with a broken wing. In both plays, the destroyer is a realist who believes relentlessly in Truth.

Gregers in "The Wild Duck" is supposedly the portrait of Ibsen himself as the young reformer who feels it his duty to rid his friend Hjalmar of his "illusions". He succeeds in shattering Hjalmar's life by telling him that his devoted wife of fifteen years' loyalty was once another man's mistress, leaving the hideous suggestion that Hjalmar's precious daughter may not be his own child. The tragedy is instantaneous, Hjalmar tumbles. So does his home.

Lazy, handsome, selfish Hjalmar, worshipped by his wife and daughter, is excellently played by Donald Moffatt. So is his father by Sydney Walker.

In 1925, Tom Powers played Gregers as ingenuous and foolish and one didn't feel the same repulsion to him as to Clayton Corzatt's bespectacled sophisticate.

Directed by Stephen Porter, the pace is slow and more emphasis is placed on the tragic than the satiric elements in which Ibsen's dry humor is present. But the APA has a way of developing with the plays in their repertoire and it will be enlightening to see "The Wild Duck" in another season.



Sister Mary Peter, R.S.M.

## Nun-Psychologist to Lead David and Lisa Discussion

Sister Mary Peter, R.S.M., chairman of the Psychology Department of Catherine McAuley College, will lead the parent and student discussion of DAVID AND LISA, the next monthly feature in the Mercy-McQuaid Film Festival, Sunday, Feb. 19, and Monday, Feb. 20.

Currently on leave of absence from McAuley to teach psychology at Nazareth and St. John Fisher Colleges, Sister Mary Peter is the only nun registered as a practicing psychologist in New York State.

In addition to her outstanding work in psychology (doctoral degree from the University of Rochester, Consultant to the DEPAUL Clinic, Monroe County Mental Health Chapter Committee Member for Emotionally Disturbed Children), Sister Mary Peter has had undergraduate studies in the fields of Speech and Drama as well as

several years of practical teaching and directing in these fields.

Director of the Testing and Guidance Center at McAuley, she is also a panel psychologist for the New York State Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Since DAVID AND LISA is an art-form dealing with emotionally disturbed youths, Sister has been engaged to discuss the film from both angles.

DAVID AND LISA is the fifth film being offered to the students from "Our Lady of Mercy and McQuaid High School (and their parents) on a Sunday evening and succeeding Monday afternoon—once each month.

## 'One for the Money,' Show Scheduled at Notre Dame

"One for the Money", a variety-type show, will be presented at Notre Dame High School auditorium, Elmira, on Feb. 10 at 8:15 p. m., under the direction of Robert J. Lynough, assisted by Sister Mary Sarto.

As part of the program, students will present N. Richard Nash's "The Rainmaker," by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc. In the romantic comedy about a drought-plagued western town and a girl whose brothers are trying to "marry her off" to the local deputy, the fast-talking "rainmaker" appears on the scene to stir up action.

Starbuck (the Rainmaker) is played by John Maloney, H. C. Curry (father) by Christopher

Ungate; Noah (practical older brother), Larry Sullivan; Jim (younger brother), Frank Morgan; File (deputy sheriff), Mark Laux; Lizzie, Jean Longwell.

Student directors are James Leahy and Mary Cross. The Notre Dame band will perform under the direction of Philip Layton.

Donation is \$1. All proceeds from the performance will go to home and foreign missions supported by Notre Dame students.

Mission Day each year is sponsored by the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade. Moderator is Sister Mary Bernadine; President for the current year is Mark Laux.

Marionette Show, "Rumpelstiltskin" Coming to Rochester for a return engagement this year, the Salzburg Marionettes will present Grimm's familiar and well-loved fairy tale, "Rumpelstiltskin" in two performances—11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.—on Saturday, Feb. 4 in the East High School Auditorium.

Last year's productions "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," and Mozart's "Magic Flute," were well-received in Rochester.

The present company is centered around the Aicher family, Mother, Father, Gretl and Frikel, direct descendants of Professor Anton Aicher, the original writer and founder of the troupe.

Tickets may now be reserved at the Eastman Theatre box office in advance, or purchased at East High School, Saturday, Feb. 4.

"The Marionettes themselves are magnificent; to the immediate joy of the youngsters they slip, skip and engage in flamboyant bouts of mid-air colliding... a wondrous world of fantasy!" NEW YORK TIMES

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## Theatre East Sets Comedy 'Twelfth Night'

Shakespeare's comedy, "Twelfth Night" will be presented Feb. 21, at Theatre East, Monroe County Fairgrounds, E. Henrietta and Calkins Rds.

Experienced Shakespearean actors of the Theatre East professional company will perform the leading roles. They are: Myra Malloux, Richard Cuss, Bernie McInerney and DeVeren Bookwalter. The production will be directed by Robert Blackburn and designed by Charles Stockton.

"Twelfth Night" is a fantasy. Shakespeare combines some of his favorite drama ingredients—romance, intrigue and mistaken identity. Among its characters are some of his most unforgettable clowns.

A change in policy now enables season subscribers to exchange their remaining tickets, for any of comparable price, to any performances of the season. The Theatre East schedule also has undergone a change. Playing times of the last five shows have been shortened to ten days, with "Major Barbara" moving up to the Feb. 16-26 slot.

A recent reorganization of East broadens community participation in the non-profit regional theater. Under the chairmanship of well-known businessman, Samter Horwitz, a board of trustees will govern the theater, assuring policy-making and fiscal responsibilities.

At present, the board is raising funds to put the theater on a firm financial footing. A professional staff will continue to operate the theater, with Lee Kessel as theater manager and Dorothy Chernuck as artistic director.

## Monroe Sets 'Grand Prix'

"The Grand Prix" promises to be "one of the most unique and original movies in years." "For the first time," a film spokesman stated, "a major motion picture will portray a highly dramatic story within the framework of the world's most exciting sport, the great race of the Grand Prix."

John Frankenheimer's MGM-Cinerama production of "Grand Prix," opens at Rochester's Monroe Theatre on Feb. 8.

The story is set in the cities of Monaco, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Mexico, England, Italy and the hairy course of nearby Watkins Glen. Against this constantly changing background unfolds the story of men who gamble their lives during the world's most hazardous road race, the International Grand Prix.

Heading the cast are James Garner, Eva Marie Saint, Yves Montand, Françoise Hardy, Brian Bedford, Jessica Walter, Antonia Sabato, Genevieve Page and Japanese star, Toshirō Mifune.



## 'Show Time '67' at Kearney High

Parents of Bishop Kearney High School students practice for "Show Time '67" to be presented at the school Feb. 3, 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. to establish an Emergency Tuition Fund.

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about 7 hours

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