

Joan of Arc-A Hawk?

The story of a rebellious teenager who protested her country's war policy—and did something constructive about it—will be featured on a new television Dec. 4 with a new production of "Saint Joan," by George Bernard Shaw.

"It is time for another 'Joan' because of its contemporary value," commented Robert Hartung, who has adapted Shaw's play for the "Hallmark Hall of Fame" two-hour presentation (9-11 p.m. EST).

Joan of Arc, the French peasant girl who rallied French troops against the British in the mid-15th Century, "starts out at 17 in the play, and is burned shortly after her 19th birthday. So she was a young rebel, and this was 'youth' speaking out, but also leading her country," Hartung said.

On another level, he said, Shaw's treatment of Joan is a re-statement of the fact that saints have frequently been non-conformists and, as an archbishop in "Saint Joan" observes, "mortal eyes cannot distinguish the saint from the heretic."

The Joan of Arc story has attracted numerous biographers and playwrights, with Maxwell Anderson ("Joan of Lorraine"), Jean Anouilh ("The Lark") and Shaw having produced the most popular versions.

Shaw's play, written in 1923 when he was 65, is noted for its epilogue, in which Joan—25 years after her execution—returns in a dream to confront the persons who knew her in life: the French king, the bishop of Rheims, the Inquisitor, a general and others, only to learn that they wish she had never entered their lives.

"O God that maddest this beautiful earth," she laments in the play's final line, "when will it be ready to receive Thy saints? How long, O Lord, how long?"

St. Joan — A New Face
Although the Hallmark "Hall of Fame" production will have top names in the supporting roles (Maurice Evans as the archbishop Caudora, her key adversary, Raymond Massey as the Inquisitor, Rod Taylor as the king, Leo Genn as the Archbishop of Rheims, among others), a "new face" will be playing Joan: a French-Canadian actress named Genevieve Bujold.

The Joan of Arc role has often been called the female equivalent of the Hamlet role for male actors, and many prominent actresses have portrayed Joan on stage and in films: Sarah Bernhardt, Katharine Cornell, Ingrid Bergman and Julie Harris among them.

Miss Bujold, whose illumination toward acting began in convent school where "I was



JOAN OF ARC
Played on TV by Genevieve Bujold

always the girl the Sisters selected to make the required speech to the mother superior or the visiting bishop," was selected by "Hall of Fame" director George Schaefer after he was impressed with her performance as a rebellious teenager in a French film called "La Guerre est Finie."

Although she is in her mid-twenties, Miss Bujold looks like a teenager, and this—in director Schaefer's view—is one of the requirements for a believable portrayal of Joan.

The Voices

In Shaw's "Saint Joan," as in other versions, heavy emphasis is given to the "voices" that Joan insisted were those of St. Catherine, St. Margaret and St. Michael, telling her that it was God's will that she become a soldier, personally crown the Dauphin (there was doubt at the time of his right to become King Charles VII), lead the demoralized French at the important battle of Orleans and otherwise drive the British from French soil.

Later, after her capture and subsequent trial for heresy and sorcery, her insistence that "voices" from the saints did indeed speak to her leads to her martyrdom, as a politically corrupt ecclesiastical court argues that if God wanted to make His wishes known, He would speak to the hierarchy, and not to a simple peasant girl.

However there has been some historical questioning of the "voices" Joan said she heard, and Shaw offers his own opinions. In one exchange of dialogue in his play, Joan is told that the voices "come from your imagination." To which she replies: "Of course. That is how the messages of God come to us."

St. Joan Not Insane

But Shaw, in a lengthy preface to his published play, strongly disagreed with those who con-

cluded that Joan was insane. He argued that everything her "voice" instructed her to do proved sensible and practical—from battle plans to the wearing of male attire.

"The diverse manners in which our imaginations dramatize the approach of the supernatural forces is a problem for the psychologist, not the historian," Shaw wrote. "Only the historian must understand that visionaries are neither impostors nor lunatics. It is one thing to say that the figure Joan recognized as St. Catherine, but not really St. Catherine, but a dramatization by Joan's imagination. It is quite another to class her visions with the vision of two moons seen by a drunkard, or with Brockers' specters, echoes and the like. St. Catherine's instructions were far too cogent for that."

The simplest French peasant who believes in apparitions of celestial personages to favored mortals is nearer to the scientific truth about Joan than the Rationalist and Materialist historians and essayists who feel obliged to set down a girl who saw spirits and heard them talking to her as either crazy or mendacious" (Catholic Press Features).

Couple Notes 50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Scortino, Aviel Park, marked their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 2, with a Mass at St. Bridget's Church.

A breakfast and reception given by family and friends rounded out the occasion.

O. L. Mery Mixed
Women: Miss Dolores DeLore, Barbara Taylor, Lorraine Schuch, Mary Muldown, Lottie Melanson, Anne Harris.
Men: Frank Donahue, Tom Nall.

Geneva Knights Sister Jerome Requiem Mark 70 Years Offered In Mercy Chapel

Geneva Council, 272, Knights of Columbus will mark this council's 70th Anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Reservations are limited to 120 couples. A reception at 6:30 p.m. will precede the jubilee banquet at 7:30 p.m. in the council home.

Past District Deputy John F. Gleason, chairman of the anniversary presentation committee, announced that six Honorary Life Members will be honored: Michael F. DeVancy, Nicholas Legnini, Patrick E. Murphy, Francis Madia, Thomas J. Maney and Richard J. Walsh.

Sixty-one members will be honored guests of the council and will receive special certificates from Gleason presented in the name of State Deputy James E. Foley of New York City.

Humphrey Donahue will be toastmaster. It is the story of the Council will be presented by Richard J. Walsh, Father Robert H. Fennessy, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Rochester and former Geneva Council chaplain will give an address.

Banquet chairman is Chris DeWalt, John J. Mahoney is reception chairman. Decorations are being handled by William Leonard.

DEADLINE FOR NEWS MONDAY NOON

Sister Mary Jerome O'Connell died Nov. 24, 1967, at Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse, Blossom Road. A native of Overton, Pa., Sister Mary Jerome entered the Sisters of Mercy in their original Motherhouse on South Street, July 2, 1915. Although a teacher when she entered, Sister asked to do culinary work and is remembered for her care and kindness to the Sisters, especially in 1918 when the Sisters were working with the Rochester flu victims.

"A good hot meal and loving concern awaited us when we returned," commented one Sister who lived with Sister Jerome at the time.

Sister was also missioned for many years at St. Patrick's, Elmira, and St. John's, Elmira where she did catechetical work.

For the past seven years, Sister has been in the Motherhouse Infirmary. Sister Mary Jerome is survived by one brother, Jerome O'Connell of Rome, N.Y.

The funeral Mass was celebrated Monday, Nov. 27 at 7 a.m.

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