

High School Productions.. Don't Sell Them Short

By Patricia Keough



Senior Noralyn Brown will portray "Maria" in Cardinal Mooney's forthcoming production of "Sound of Music May 23, 24 and 25.

So often, one hears audiences remark after they have viewed a high school dramatic production, "That was very good for high school." Just exactly what they mean, or against what other experience of viewing they are measuring their evaluation, is not always clear; and such a statement is not really a fair one.

For, in fact, there are many excellent high school productions — some which would equal and indeed, surpass, college, community, even so-called professional presentations.

Certainly education, experience and/or apprenticeship do enhance, not only an actor's performance, but also the contribution of any other artist. On the other hand, no amount of education or experience will give talent where it just doesn't exist. So one could really make the same aforementioned remark about all levels of the art.

What really should be said about any production, if it succeeds, is—"That was very good theatre," period. There are just as many inadequate offerings at every other level.

The high school presentations of today are far different from the "typical senior play" of yesterday. The number of schools that present an "Aaron Slick From Pumpkin Creek," are few. A number of competent technicians, trained directors, musicians, and choreographers are seen almost as often on the high school stage, as are seen on the commercial stage.

There is no doubt that the peers and parents, and probably the teachers, of high schoolers are not always impartial judges of their teenagers' finished product. The directors and teachers see during rehearsal time just how much the student has grown in a part, or improved in his ability to handle scenery, or has partially mastered a painting technique. The parents see how much he has gained in poise, "come out of himself," been motivated. His friends watch and think he is superb because he is their friend and they love him. These emotions may get in the way of seeing what is really there.

However, the false statement that continues to circulate that high school theatre is generally very amateurish, and therefore, not worth the time and money it costs to attend, is kept alive by people who never see any, or see one and generalize.

These impressions were reaffirmed once again while watching Cardinal Mooney High School's presentation of Sound of Music being mounted together during the past six weeks, albeit, the school is still very young, and the dramatic tradition is still in the embryo stage.

But under the dramatic direction of William Andia, widely experienced theatrical production man, the scene design and execution of Tony DeCroce, draftsman and artist; the dance instruction of Anne Welsh, performing artist of 15 years' experience; the musical direction of Holy Cross Brother John Larrere, award-winning conductor; a rather exciting "thing" is happening to a tested musical.

And some 150 Mooney students, both front and back stage are making some pretty wonderful theatre. The proof of the production is in the viewing. Take an evening (May 23-24-25) to see their excellent show.



Stage Manager Jim Winterroth and newcomer Thomas Zamara assist in adding molding to a unit of the cloister arch.



Sister Mary Rachel, costume designer supervises the cutting out of a habit by a willing "mother helper," Mrs. Kuder.

Handicapped Get Boost From Fisher Senior Class

Handicapped students at St. John Fisher College will be aided by contributions of this June's graduating class toward a proposed ramp entrance to the administration building.

All buildings at the college are now easily accessible to the handicapped except the main building, which houses offices, several classrooms and the cafeteria. It will be one of the few small colleges in the state to have all buildings accessible, particularly for wheelchair patients.

Acknowledging the senior class decision, Father Charles Lavery, CSB, college president, declared:

"We are deeply grateful to the Class of 1969 for their gift to the college. At a time when the spotlight of the nation is directed to campus problems, it is most heartening to hear of students demonstrating their genuine interest in others.

"When the college started in 1948, very little attention was paid to the handicapped. Today we have many handicapped students, and their specific needs are considered in the construction of all buildings. It is more difficult to make changes in the older buildings, and so the attention and assistance of the senior students to this serious problem will have a most positive influence."

The drive to cut a door in the northeast section of the cafeteria has been led by Daniel C. Dzuba, a junior, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Dzuba, 84 May St., Rochester.

Several hours of consideration and counsel was given the project by Miss Barbara Flanagan

Senior class officers at St. John Fisher College look over plans for new graded entrance to administration building to aid handicapped students. From left are: Joseph Parella, Rochester; Douglas Harper, Allentown, N.J., senior class secretary-treasurer; Michael R. Law, Irondequoit, president; Leo C. Flynn, Irondequoit, vice president; James M. Mulrone, Greece.

and John Briggs of the Sigl Rehabilitation Center, Lawrence Hill Jr., an engineer at Eastman Kodak, and Joseph R. Vasile, local contractor.

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By Ruth DeMallie



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The probable reason some people get lost in thought is because it is unfamiliar territory to them.

Money isn't everything, but it helps until everything comes along.

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it comes due.



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