

The Drudgery and the Magic of the High School Theater



Publicity gets underway when posters advertising the play are silk-screened.

School plays are like icebergs: the part which shows on the surface of opening night gives little indication of the much more imposing, though hidden, fraction which is composed of the many weeks' work before the curtain goes up. Our pictures show how a school play is created.

Since practically every school presents at least one stage production during the year, it would be easy to take the whole process for granted, as something too common to command attention. But the hours spent by directors, producers, musicians, costume designers, and cast members too often are never applauded.

At least two months of rehearsal time is apportioned for the perfection of a play and most directors would describe this as "not enough", even with a scheduled 4 or 5 rehearsals per week.

Cast members become experts on how to manage homework, after-school jobs, sports and other school activities, as well as attending rehearsals and learning script, music, and dances.

Shopping for the "just right" patterns and material precedes the many hours devoted to making costumes. Music directors spend their time studying the scores for

instrumentation and voices and happy choruses.

Added to this list are the prop people, production crew, and stagehands.

Are school plays worth the effort? As one director says, "It's worth it through the experience of themselves to the theater."

Cast members also meet new people, gain confidence, and become acquainted with the theater.

And perhaps the most important thing is whether or not these people are found in the fact that students vie with each other to be in the play and actresses, and the nights throughout the year.

The Spring production is nearly all open rehearsal, photographed at Cardozo College before opening night to show the scenes in all

Photos by Brother Richard O'Brien, CSC., and Sam Tandori. Text by Sister Mary...



Hours of practice are necessary for musical directors and accompanists.



The director's most obvious role is to guide the cast to a true portrayal of the play characters . . .