

1961 Drama Festival

MARCH 12, 1961

The Drama Festival opened with the play "N. Greater Love" presented by the North Peace Senior High Drama Club under the direction of Mrs. Marion Booth. The young medical doctor returns briefly from a promising career in the city to his poverty stricken home in a wretched mining town. He is finally persuaded to give up his plush ambitions to serve where he is truly needed.

Mrs. Charlotte Moore of the B.C. Guild of Adjudicators prefaced her remarks with the request that all her criticisms should be interpreted constructively. This play was a poor choice. Not only was it beyond the students emotional development but as drama it was not worth the excellent work which had gone into it.

Sylvia Stuby, by movement and gesture, portrayed the gentle wise Grandmother and Percy Nelms, as the aspiring young doctor was convincing and audible.

The second play, "A Box of Trouble" was a brief skit which the Montney Club had cleverly extended to a twenty-five minute play. There were ten women in it and every one had a lot of fun opening a mysterious box thought to contain whiskey and actually holding bottles of marge cure. (complete with a separate envelope of labels.)

The last play of the evening, presented by Workshop 60, was entitled "The Parpot Assassination, directed by Georgina Keddell. A French Cafe is the scene of a violent display of anger during which a slut of an attendant is pushed? - or fell? to her death down the cellar steps. She later revives and during the confusion theft and blackmail boil the pot over. This play was adjudged a most excellent choice and the costumes well contrived. It lacked pace and a little zany scenery would have given it added verve.

Friday night's performance opened to a better crowd. "The Laboratory", by the Charlie Lake players, showed one of the best sets of the festival. The apothecary, well played by Mrs. Zoerb, was unveiled as a man of science struggling against the sinister demands of his customers to supply them with poisons. Stronger characterization was recommended here. The courtier should have swaggered more, the mistress should have been more voluptuous, the bitter wife more a vixen.

Next was the winning play from the Dawson Creek South Peace Inter-House Festival. "The Ugly Duckling", by A.A. Milre. This play is a classic and an excellent choice. Desperate ruses one resorted to, to marry off the Royal Ugly Daughter. Costumes and props were commended by Mrs. Moore and this play secured three awards.

"Another Way Out", presented by St. Lukes players earned the adult best play trophy for this club again. An arty couple decide to separate as they are losing their freedom to respectability. They become involved with a Baroness and a book salesman in an effort to stir



and take the "Other Way Out". This was judged the best adult play. Dilys Loucks as the Baroness was congratulated on an exquisite performance and Mr. Hank Roeters as the book salesman was awarded the best Actor Award. To produce and also act in a play was not recommended by Mrs. Moore however in the duel note Mr. Dave Stewart was named best supporting actor.

The final night, Saturday opened with "The House of Greed" by C.J.H.S. Drama Club of Dawson Creek. This concerned the murder of a rich miserly spinster. It was condemned as a poor play but commended for some good acting, notably Linda Elstad and David Wendeborn, as the scheming sister and the heroic nephew. Best supporting awards went to Janet Marion as the maid of Michael Stevens, the crooked detective.

"Choose Ye This Day" an original play by Mary McPhee of Dawson Creek, was visually the most beautiful of the whole festival. The curtains parted to reveal a lovely rock sheltered spring moss and flowers blooming. a gauze curtain veiled this set and gave softness an illusion to the scene. After the Prologue Father Time unfolded painted canvasses and translated the set into a garden. The Biblical drama of Job was retold by his grieving wife who was exhorted to turn to God but not with accusations or curses, for these could only save Job from divine good. The adjudicator would have preferred the promise of the play to be to this age, a living message, lack of actual action

IF AN AWARD WERE GIVEN FOR THE "PLAY MOST ENJOYED BY THE AUDIENCE", THE DAY OF FLITTING WOULD HAVE SURELY WON. MRS. BILLIE FRIEND WAS PRICELESS AS MRS. McBAGGES, LLOYD AMUNDSON ROCKED THE HOUSE WITH SEVERAL OF McBAGGES' LINES. THAT'S ART JANSEN LAID OUT ON THE FLOOR BY BILLIES ENTHUSIASTICALLY WIELDED BROOM HANDLE. TREPUS PHOTO

on stage made this a difficult role for Miss Montezuma. She was awarded the best actress award for her parts as Crystalline and Kezia.

The final play at the festival was Mrs. Vernice McIvor's "The Day of Flitting" Mrs. McBagges has moved into the roomy, newly built barn during her husbands absence. He returns and is livid. An intruder who turns out to be a bank robber arrives and demands food and assistance in crossing the river. McBagges goaded to action by the strangers abuse of his rain making machine attacks the man and Maggie joins in the fray and gets in a lucky one and the thief is laid out cold. The domestic dispute flares up again and Maggie also turns on the Rain Maker. It replies with bangs crashes and lights of various hues and down comes the rain right to order surprising the inventor. So all ends happily with reward money expected and Maggie presumably getting the barn for a house.

This play was obviously much enjoyed by the audience and by the adjudicator. We were again advised to leave accents alone, they are tricky, Mrs. Billie Friend was congratulated on her vivacious portrayal of a farm wife with a glorious giggle. Mr. Art Jensen as the intruder was convincingly tough.

This play was awarded the Best Original Script Trophy.

AWARDS AND 1961 WINNERS

Class 1 - Elementary: No entries: No awards.

Class 2 - Junior High: Grades 7 to 9
Best Play - Wilson Freightways Shield & Gold Sealed Certificate.
Winner: The House of Greed.
Director: Henry Lenn Freisen.
Best Actress: J. Corsbie Trophy & Certificate (Gold Sealed).
Winner: Linda Elstad, Central Jr. High Dawson Creek.
Best Actor: J. Corsbie Trophy & Certificate (Gold Sealed).
Winner: David Wendeborn.
Best Supporting Actress: Red Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Janet Marion.
Best Supporting Actor: Red Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Michael Stevens.

Class 3 - Senior High: Grades 10 to 12
Best Play - Canadian Bank of Commerce Sh Shield & Gold Sealed Certificate.
Winner: The Ugly Duckling Revisited.
South Peace Sr. High.
Director: Mr. W. Goddard & W. Schneider.

Best Actress: G.N. Cormack trophy & Certificate (Gold Sealed)
Winner: Mary Short - S.P. Sr. High
Best Actor: Jean Gross Trophy & Certificate.
Winner: Terry Roberts - S.P. Sr. High.
Best Supporting Actress - Red Sealed Certificate
Winner: Sylvia Stuby.
Best Supporting Actor - Red Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Percy Nelms

CLASS 4 - Adult
Best Play - Northern Motors Shield & Gold Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Another Way Out.
Director: Dave Stewart
Best Actress - J. Moffatt Trophy & Gold Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Marjorie Montezuma
Best Actor - Rose Trophy & Gold Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Hank Roeters.
Best Supporting Actress: Red Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Dilys Loucks
Best Supporting Actor: Red Sealed Certificate.
Winner: Dave Stewart.
Best Original Script - Vernice McIvor Trophy & Gold Sealed Certificate
Winner: Mrs. McIvor
Best Director: Miss McPhee.

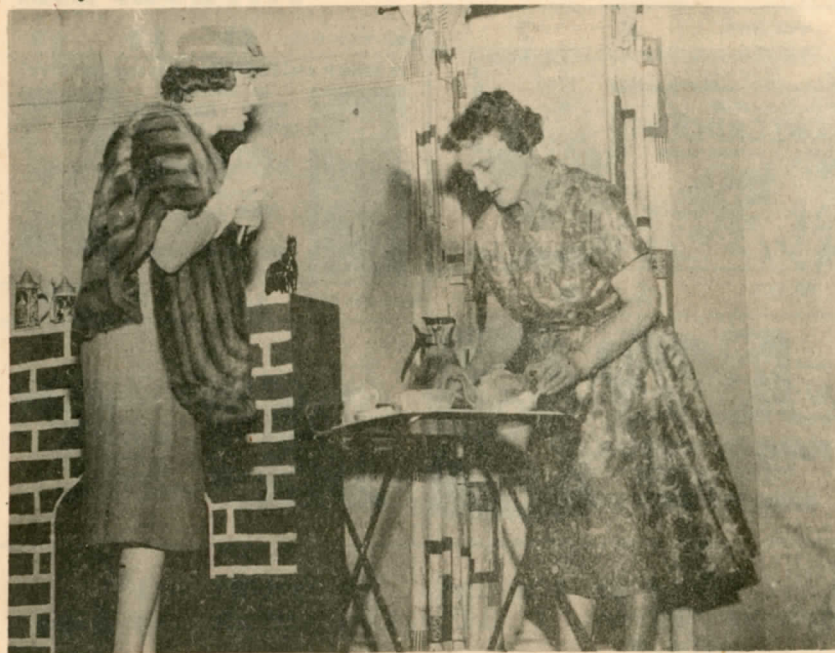
BY MARTHA BAZELEY

NIGHT OF ONE ACT PLAYS

DEC 6, 1961

"A CUP OF TEA"

By WORKSHOP 60



WHEN IN DOUBT, SERVE TEA, is Jane Wendell's philosophy (Jean Gross) as she entertains her husbands' lover. (Evelyne Zoerb) Mrs. Gross

was fabulous in a role that was strictly from weirdsville, and piles and piles of fun.



I'LL KILL YOU FOR THAT screams Ed Shaw. (the philandering poet husband) Roger Ventress, husband of Evelyne Zoerb, is so completely

flabbergasted at being handed a cup of tea, that he finds it very difficult to be the irate offended spouse.

"ST. MICHAEL COMES TO SHEPHERDS BUSH"



Ross Hallar plays the sweetest rosiest cheeked, goldenest haired St. Michael anyone could im-

agine, last Wednesday and Thursday evenings, while Dave Todd made perfectly sly old devil.



I HAD A NIGHTMARE, the man (Hank Roeters) tells his wife (Jean Querin) and he really

had! How would you like to be interuped from your reading by St. Michael and the Devil?



"CONSOLATION"

A few minutes in the life of a 'nervous' hospital patient (Judy Shunter) is the subject of this light hearted play. LET ME OUT OF HERE! she is saying, as Helen Clarke tries to restrain her, and nurse Elaine Brodoway sings to soothe the patients frenzied nerves. Teresa Scott played a delightful maid in the same play, while Norma Jackson did a fine job of being a 'cheerful visitor' who was anything but cheering.

PEACE RIVER NORTH FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

Will Sponsor

A DRAMA COMPETITION

Thurs., Fri. and Sat.

FEBRUARY 22nd, 23rd and 24th

at 8:00 p.m.

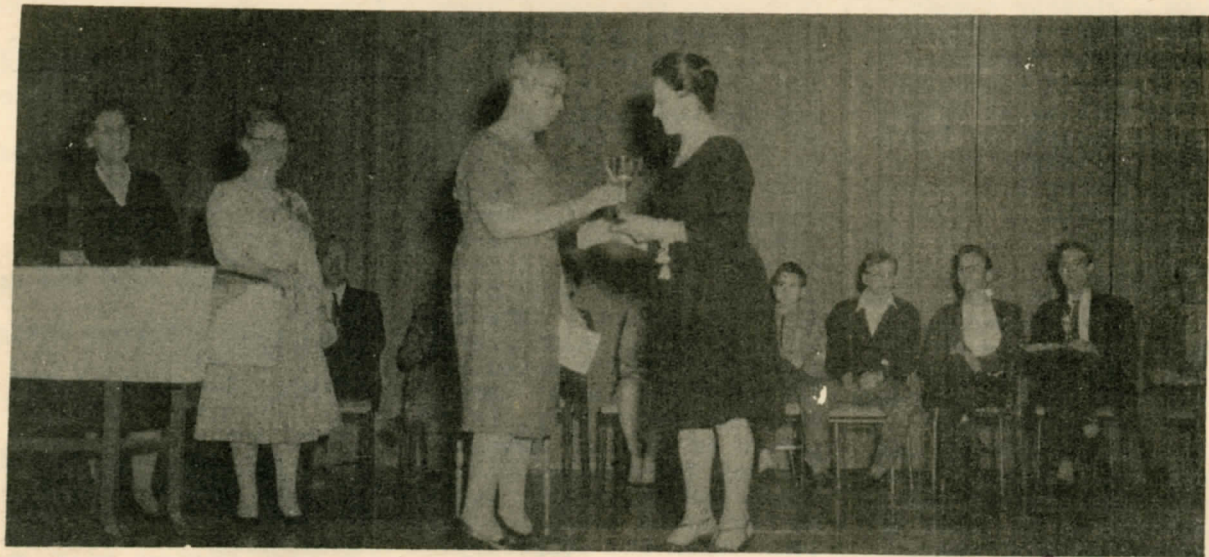
IN

The High School Auditorium.

There will be representatives from DAWSON CREEK, POUCE COUPE and FORT ST. JOHN. The winning play will compete in the British Columbia Drama Festival to be held in Dawson Creek.

There will be a reception after the plays in the High School Cafeteria on Friday, February 23rd and everybody is invited.

Tickets for the three evenings are \$1.50 for adults and 75¢ for students. Tickets for the one evening of plays are 60¢ for adults and 35¢ for students.



FEB 28, 1962

ADJUDICATOR VERLIE COUTER PRESENTS A TROPHY FOR THE BEST ORIGINAL SCRIPT IN THE 1962 DRAMA FESTIVAL TO VERNICE McIVOR. MARGUERITE DAVIES AND DOROTHY FORESTER ASSIST IN THE PRESENTATION

Drama Festival Review

PART TWO OF DRAMA FESTIVAL REVIEW

Friday evening opened with "To the Lovely Margaret" - a story of youth, directed by Hank Roeters. It concerned a mother's efforts to transform a plain - jane daughter into a glamour gal assisted by a sympathetic uncle. Julia Arnold, the mother, was played by Sylvia Roeters and Professor Adams, the uncle by Frank Perkins. Carol Netterfield took the part of Margaret, the subdued studious girl and Stella

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Netterfield was Jackie, her vivacious fun-loving friend. In the end, Margaret's disappointments are smothered by the interest and kind words of Franz Koch, (Don Campbell) a student staying at the Uncle's home.

Mrs. Couter felt the play started slow and the parts were under-played. In theatre, all gestures are exaggerated when they appear normal. She did not like the robust make-up of Franz Koch.

were seeking justice before the Magistrate. When the evidence had been heard and no solution seemed forthcoming the Magistrate acted on a suggestion of the maiden that she die and brought forth a vial of poison. With the words, "I depart" the bride-to-be drank the potion and fell lifeless on the floor. Neither the wealthy merchant nor the bulls-eye hitting soldier wished to bear the expense of a funeral. Only the poor beggar Scholar would assume this responsibility. The Magistrate then produced a second potion to counteract the effects of the first which was only a sleeping powder anyway. The true lover and the young girl kneel to be married.

The Adjudicator was so enthralled that she confessed she had taken few notes. Chinese Music set the mood. The costumes were colourful. The set good; blocking good. Silken chinese lanterns hung from the ceiling; at stage front a brass court gong hung from a bamboo stand. The incense burner was intriguing,

ey's paw on which an old Indian fakir had cast a spell. Three separate holders of it would be granted three separate wishes. as for others, like the White family it brought tragedy and horror. Mr. White, ably played by Peter Gibbs, won the Best Adult Actor's award. "An old Festival standby", said the adjudicator. She felt that when suspense was building one clink of china was inclined to destroy the effect, and an old chicken bone wrapped in fur would better serve for a monkey's paw. Wood in cloth when throw to the floor had a distinctly false ring to it.

The final entry, St. Michael comes to Shepherd's Bush was directed by Vernice McIvor. A Little Man, Hank Roeters, much given to late reading and late wireless thrillers receives a visit from St. Michael (Ross Haller and the Devil (Dave Todd) from a stained glass window in Europe. Jean Querin was the Little Woman. Mrs. Couter questioned the director's interpretation of the scene between the man and his wife. She felt that the Little Woman should have henpecked the Man.

The second play of the evening was 'The Giants' Stair' from Charlie Lake directed by Mrs. Gross. The curtain opened on barefoot Til, a deranged sister sitting near the table, blankly

staring. An eerie feeling permeated to the audience. The mood was set. It held us enthralled as the wind howled, the party-line phone rang, the law rapped on the door and murder unfolded. "It was one of them nights!" Jan Fulton, as Til, was consistent throughout the play. Evelyn Zoerb, as Mrs. Weatherburn, her protective sister, was good. Bane, played by Tom Humpries was an important investigating officer of Sheriffdom until - the straw-stacks revealed too much.

The adjudicator's comments seemed trifling. Til's arms were too young and anyone who had gone about barefoot as much as Til probably did, should have had some roughness on her feet.

The third and last play Friday was 'The Thrice Promised Bride' directed by Mary McPhee. As the title suggests, a young girl had been promised to three separate suitors and all

You have the opulence of the Universe to draw from.

This play was later selected as the Best Adult play of the Festival.

Following the Friday performances a reception was held in the High School Cafeteria for Mrs. Couter, casts and others interested in local drama.

Saturday evening opened with Mary McPhee's original play 'Kezia' re-written from last year with other speakers added to escape the classification of a dialogue. This long slow-moving presentation of the imagination was mildly termed 'Wordy' by the adjudicator. The main actress did not project her voice and could not be heard by most. However, long years of stress on 'Silence' and 'No movement' while a presentation is on the stage kept the audience's boredom under control. It was a pity that the adjudicator miscalculated the quiet respect of the audience for interest and attentiveness. And a further pity and great disappointment that the adjudicator selected the main actress from this as the Best adult actress of the Festival.

Pouce Coupe's entry, 'The Monkey's Paw' directed by Dave Bowman was the second play Saturday. Here was an excellent play, well cast and well portrayed. Its story centred around a monk-

Heaven lies about us in our infancy. -Wordsworth.

making the remark that Men like to be hen-pecked. She stated many lines were lost because the players did not always project their voices. She thought the set was adequate but that a backdrop behind the french doors to reveal the conservatory when the doors were opened would have improved the set. Failing this, a lot of plants just outside the french doors would

have given authenticity. Mrs. Couter said it was a delightful comedy and she particularly liked the activity (between St. Michael and the Devil) carried down into the audience.

Some Points to Bear in Mind for Another Year:

1. A stop watch should be used to time scene changes.
2. A prompter is a crutch for actors - should be abandoned.
3. It is unethical to hang pictures on drapes.
4. Directors must watch a scissors cross and discard it.
5. Break crowd scenes.
6. Re Make-up: Watch make-up on back of necks, arms, feet. Put shadows on older faces.

These points must be watched if Mrs. Couter is the Adjudicator. If another party, they will probably not be noticed.

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MAY 30, 1962

B.C. Drama Festival - Provincial Finals
at Dawson Dreek High School Auditorium this
coming Wed., Thurs., Fri., and Sat., May 30,
31 and June 1, 2 at 8 p.m. Three, one act
plays each night. Tickets can be got at
Dawson Music Shop or rush tickets at the door.
Saturday night promises to be a packed
audience so better get your tickets now.

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18th DRAMA FESTIVAL

FEB 27
1963

Jean Gross Play Wins And
Goes On To Provincial
Finals.

For the first time in several years most of the major awards (four out of five) in this, the Peace River Regional Festival, have remained North of the Peace.

The winning adult play was "Green For Danger" presented by the Charlie Lake Players and directed by Mrs. Frank Gross.

The best actress went to Evelyne (Mrs. Stan) Zoerb, as Poppy Canticle, in the same play.

The best actor was Hank Rocters as George McPhe-

rson in "A Gate For Re-
turning."

Best original script -
(jointly) Marguerite
Davies - "Mrs. Bea's
Tea Party" and Vernice
McIvor - "A Gate For Re-
turning."

Best director was R.H.
C. Mishens - "O Distant
Lands", presented by the
Dawson Creek Choral and
Dramatic Society.

Best supporting actor &
and actress went to Mr.
& Mrs. Richard Dixon as
Mr. & Mrs. Jordon in
"The Dear Departed" pre-
sented by the Pouce Coupe
Drama Club.

Special award - Leon Cor-
net as Bobbie in "Miss
Bea's Tea Party." The
Mildred Hazlett Shield
for the best Elementary
Play was won by "Snow

White and the Seven Dw-
arfs," a pantomine dir-
ected by Dorothy Nash
and presented by her
"Neighbourhood Gang."

There are no individ-
ual awards in the elem-
entary class but Billy
Dunn as Tom and David
Stewart as Aunt Polly in
"Tom Sawyer" received
honourable mention. The
play was directed by
Yvonne Dubeau and pres-
ented by the Grade VII
boys of Taylor School.

The high school awards
were won by Central Jun-
ior and South Peace Sec-
ondary Schools in Dawson
Creek - the list will
follow next week.

MORE ON THE FESTIVAL

MAR 6, 1963

The success of the Charlie Lake Players with their Director, Jean Gross brought great satisfaction to North Peace festival fans but it was a well earned and not at all unexpected success. Mrs. Gross has been acting and directing in our Festival for ten years or more.

In 1953 she took the leading part in Marguerite Davies' "The Ghost Writer" in 1955 directed her "Voyageur's Ruse", winning several awards, and in 1956 her "Mystic Lights".

In 1954 she directed "The Full Moon" for the CWL Drama Club. Her big year was 1958 when she produced her own adaptation of "Snow White" and also Marguerite Davies Centennial play "Waiting For The D.A. Thomas".

In this Mrs. Gross directed some sixteen of our own pioneers in portraying a bygone era in Fort St. John. Finally, she directed the Charlie Lake Players in 1962 in "The Giant's Stair," one of

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the finest peices of work of our past festivals. In this Evelyn Zoerb showed much of the talent which this year brought her the Best Actress award. Mrs. Zoerb appeared also in "The Patchwork Quilt" in 1955 with the Charlie Lake Players, "Joint Owners in Spain" in 1959 and in "The Laboratory" in 1961 - again the Charlie Lake Players. She directed an earlier presentation of "Joint Owners in S pain" in 1953 (Charlie Lake Players' first effort?) and the same group in 1956 in "The Old Lady Shows Her Madals."

In this year's "Green For Danger" Jan Fulton did a fine piece of work in the unspectacular part of Emmie Wayne but she will probably be remembered longest for her brilliant portrayal of Til, the deranged sister, in "The Giant's Stair." Many considered this one of the finest pieces of acting in any of our eighteen drama festivals, Mrs. Fulton, too, was Director for "The Laboratory" in 1961.

Bill Harlos, Grandhaven teacher, and a newcomer received particular mention for his part as Edward Bowden.