



12-12-1947

Program for the Stage Production The Barrets of Wimpole Street

Curtain Club
Ursinus College

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The Playbill



Ursinus College
Collegeville, Penna.

ABOUT THE CURTAIN CLUB

Anyone at Ursinus College enamored of dramatics has an ample opportunity to nourish his interest by becoming a member of the Curtain Club. This club has long been active on our campus and has existed under its present name since 1930. Its history has been one of encouraging dramatic effort in all forms and presenting the best and most varied entertainment possible.

This year we have revised our constitution and have given written form to some of the practices which have become a part of the organization through the years. Curtain Club membership is based entirely on interest in dramatics. Prospective members write letters of application to the president or secretary of the club indicating their desire to belong to the group. They are admitted automatically without the necessity of trying-out or performing in any production. The club is organized into four levels of achievement — extra, understudy, player, star — according to a successful merit system adopted by the club in 1944. All members enter the club as extras. They may elevate themselves to understudies by helping in any of the club's numerous activities. Through further work and continued interest, they may become players and finally may achieve the highest rank of star.

As stars, they are eligible to join the Delta Tau Chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honorary fraternity organized at Ursinus College in 1943. Election to the chapter is determined by outstanding service to the Curtain Club and its activities. The officers of this organization for the coming year are: Marian Sare '48, President; Marian Bell '48, Secretary-Treasurer; Winfield Atkinson '48, Stage Manager.

The stars and players of the club compose the legislative body. This group enacts all laws, amends

the constitution and raises the status of members of the club. It meets as a legislature once a month. All members of the club belong to one of four groups, chairmaned by the following people: Marian Bell '48, Jean Bartle '48, Marian Sare '48, and Vangy Tilton '48. The purpose of these groups is to make individual and small group work possible. Each group is responsible in its turn for the entertainment at one of the two association meetings of the entire club held twice a semester. Group meetings are held once a month. Absence from any three meetings will strike a member's name from the roll. The officers of the club for this year are: Susan Bellis '48, President; Harold Grossman '48, Vice-President; Florence Cherry '48, Secretary; Richard Reid '49, Treasurer; Betsy Greene '48, Historian.

Each year the Curtain Club produces two plays. Last year the productions were Agatha Christie's thriller **Ten Little Indians** and Kaufman and Hart's ever-popular **The Man Who Came to Dinner**. Tonight's play, **The Barretts of Wimpole Street**, is the only major dramatic production scheduled for this semester. In conjunction with Dr. Philip's musical organizations, the club cooperates to produce an operetta each spring. Last year's offering was Jerome Kern's **Very Good Eddie**.

Much work goes into every production of the Curtain Club. Actors and committees do their best to produce the finest and most enjoyable entertainment possible for Ursinus audiences. But without the continued interest, assistance and encouragement of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Helferich, the actors, the set, and the play as a whole would lack the professional touch which they so freely and consistently contribute. The Curtain Club is ever grateful for their kind and helpful aid.

THE BARRETTS OF WIMPOLE STREET

The play we are to witness this evening was written by Rudolf Besier, an English dramatist of Dutch descent, born in 1878. Mr. Besier's play, a big success in both New York and London, is a family chronicle based on two romances—that of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning, and that of her sister and a soldier. Mr. Edward Barrett, the girls' father, is a man "possessed," a domestic despot passionately resolved to keep his vast family unmarried, untainted by the world; a warped and wounded Puritan, who, lacking purity, must torture in purity's name.

Elizabeth is the delicate lady, lying behind eternally closed windows, her room a sanctuary in a house of terror. Ill and lacking the will to strength, she takes sole solace in her reading and writing. Browning is the life-giver, the mender of a broken will, the impetuous knight who rescues Elizabeth from her Victorian prison. Here is abundant matter for the dramatist and from it Mr. Besier has made a play of power which the English critic, Ivor Brown, has found "profoundly exciting."

The play, first produced in London, opened at the Empire Theater in New York in February, 1931, with Katherine Cornell, Brian Aherne and Charles Waldron in

the roles of Elizabeth, Robert Browning and Edward Barrett respectively. In spite of the depression, "The Barretts" ran for over a year. It could have continued even longer, but Miss Cornell wanted other cities to see the play she loved. Thus began a triumphant tour of the United States—one of the most successful tours ever experienced by a play or an actress.

During the winter of 1944-45 the famous drama was revived, but this time under unique and certainly different circumstances. Miss Cornell and her director-husband, Guthrie McClintic, took their then thirteen year old production to the military forces in Europe. This move was to prove to themselves and to the theater-minded world that good drama whether outfitted with ornate sets and costumes or with only USO uniforms and Army truck headlights could and would succeed. The play's reception was to prove them more than right in their conviction.

It is, therefore, with some pride in its interesting history and its universal appeal that we present this play. As long as men love, we must listen with a sympathetic ear to the story of Robert and Elizabeth. We give you "The Barretts of Wimpole Street."



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are indebted to Mr. Sylvan Bender, Collegeville Antique Shop and Mr. Howard Finkle of Trappe for the antiques which they kindly lent for use on the set. Any prospective customers may contact these dealers.

As usual, the subtle, delicate touches which enhance tonight's set are due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Donald Helfferich who generously strips her home for every Curtain Club production. Our appreciation goes to her for a beautiful Victorian stage.

We wish to express our appreciation to Mrs. Stanley Omwake and Mrs. Paul Levengood for their assistance back stage during the performances.

No Ursinus play would be a success without the invaluable aid of Mr. Donald Helfferich. His loyalty and assistance in each succeeding production, we gratefully acknowledge. The cast, committees and Curtain Club as a whole, hereby express their appreciation to him for his continued service.

We are indebted to Miss Natalie Hogeland for enabling Flicker to make his dramatic debut this evening.

The Playbill

URSINUS COLLEGE

Collegeville, Pa.

FIRE NOTICE: The exit indicated by the sign nearest to the seat you occupy is the shortest route from the building. In the event of a fire, please do not run, WALK TO THAT EXIT.

Thoughtless persons annoy patrons, distract actors and endanger the safety of others by lighting matches during the performance. There will be smoking at intermission in the outer lobby only.

THE PLAYBILL * * IS PUBLISHED BY * * THE INDEPENDENT

DECEMBER 12, 13, 1947

Performance at 8:15 p. m.

THE URSINUS COLLEGE CURTAIN CLUB

— Presents —

The Barretts of Wimpole Street

— By —

RUDOLF BESIEN

Directed by
JEAN BARTLE

Staged by
ALBERT MAZURKIEWICZ

By permission of DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC., New York City

— CAST —

(In order of their appearance)

DOCTOR CHAMBERS	Eugene Glick '51
ELIZABETH BARRETT MOULTON-BARRETT Jacquelyn Keller '51
WILSON	Margaret Corliss '50
HENRIETTA MOULTON-BARRETT	Nancy Bare '51
ARABEL MOULTON-BARRETT	Vangy Tilton '48
OCTAVIUS MOULTON-BARRETT	William Keller '50
SEPTIMUS MOULTON-BARRETT	Richard Reid '49
ALFRED MOULTON-BARRETT	Webb Morrison '48
CHARLES MOULTON-BARRETT	Seth Bakes '48
HENRY MOULTON-BARRETT	Frederick Tischler '50
GEORGE MOULTON-BARRETT	Nelson Moury '50
EDWARD MOULTON-BARRETT	John Norman '48
BELLA HEDLEY	Betty Jane Greene '48
HENRY BEVAN	Emile Schmidt '51
ROBERT BROWNING	Charles Williamson '50
DOCTOR FORD-WATERLOW	Milton Marion '49
CAPTAIN SURTEES COOK	Walter Fehrle '50
FLUSH	Nat Hogeland's "Flicker"



Synopsis of the Scenes

*Selections from the poetry of Elizabeth Barrett and
Robert Browning.*

ROBERT BARROLL '48

The scene is the bed-sitting room of Elizabeth Barrett
at 50 Wimpole Street, in London, in 1845.

ACT I

Scene 1: The evening of the 19th of May.

Scene 2: The afternoon of the following day.

ACT II

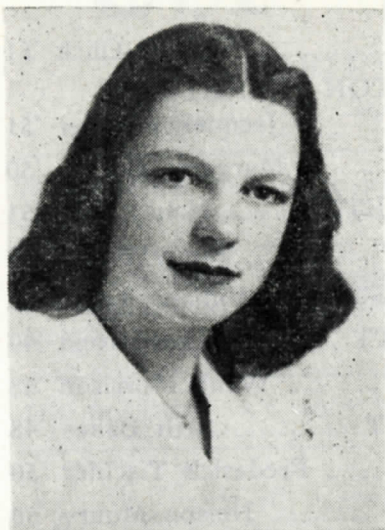
Three months later.

ACT III

Scene 1: Some weeks later.

Scene 2: The following week.

STUDENT DIRECTOR



JEAN BARTLE directs tonight's performance with the experience gained from a background of four years in the Curtain Club. Currently she is a star and leader of the group which bears her name—"Jean's Jesters." She chaired the costume committee for **Countess Maritza** and **The Man Who Came to Dinner**, and served on the play selection and ticket committees for **Ten Little Indians**. In addition to Curtain Club activities, she busies herself with chemistry, work in the library, bridge, the Ruby and activities of South Hall.



— COMMITTEES —

— STAGE —

Albert Mazurkiewicz '50, chairman
 Marjorie Haimbach '48
 Robert Jacobsen '50
 Ray Dippel '50
 Robert Leckey '51
 William Helferich '51
 Frank Light '50

— PROPERTIES —

Carol Schoeppe '48, chairman
 Ray Dippel '50
 Betsy Eschelmann '49
 Jeanne Heal '49
 Mary Ann Ballantyne '48
 Sally App '50
 Jeanne McNaull '50

— COSTUME —

Eleanor Baum '48, chairman
 Muriel Finkbinder '50
 Gerald Donahue '51
 Mildred Noble '48
 Marjorie Paynter '51
 Mary Kern '48
 Willy Koetsier '48
 Elaine Schober '48

— PROGRAM —

Florence Cherry '48, chairman
 Richard Reid '49
 Patricia Richardson '51
 Jean Frederick '50
 Julia Barber '51
 Anne Hughes '50
 Charles Williamson '50

— MAKE-UP —

Charlotte Stolze '48, chairman
 Rebecca Boswell '49
 Susanne Deitz '51.

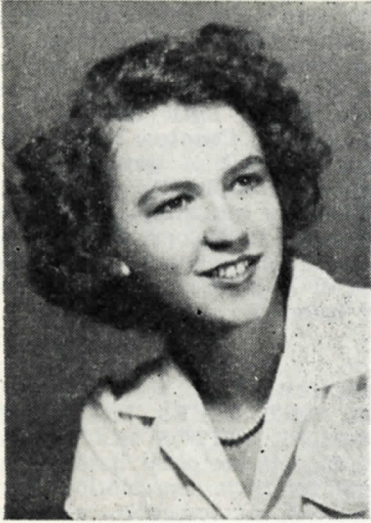
— BUSINESS —

Winfield Atkinson '48, chairman
 Henry Grinsfelder '51
 Nancy Brasch '51
 George Dougherty '50
 Jane Day '48

— PROMPTER —

Phyllis Bright '48

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Jackie Keller

NANCY BARE (Henrietta) is a freshman newcomer to the Curtain Club. The stage, however, is not unfamiliar to her. In Manheim High School, she took part in **You Can't Take It With You** and played the title role in **Jane Eyre**.

CAPTAIN SURTEES COOK (Walter Fehrle) has done previous production and acting work in little theater groups. He appeared this summer in **The Night of January 13th**. This is his first work with the Curtain Club.

CHARLES WILLIAMSON (Robert Browning) dates his love for dramatics from his debut in **Tom Sawyer** as early as grade school days. While attending Kennett Consolidated School, he helped write and direct mystery comedies and played in **Mad Hopes**. He has appeared in the annual Longwood Pageants and was first introduced to Ursinus audiences as Richard in **The Man Who Came to Dinner**. He is a member of the English Club, Sigma Rho Lambda fraternity and writes for **The Weekly** and **The Lantern**.

JACKIE KELLER (Elizabeth Barrett) takes her first role in an Ursinus production as the leading lady. At Yorktown Heights High School, she played the part of Annabelle in **Feathers in the Gale** and appeared in **Mooncalf Muggford**, a drama, and **Girl Trouble**—both one act plays. Jackie is a freshman math major, a resident of Clamer Hall and a member of the "Y".

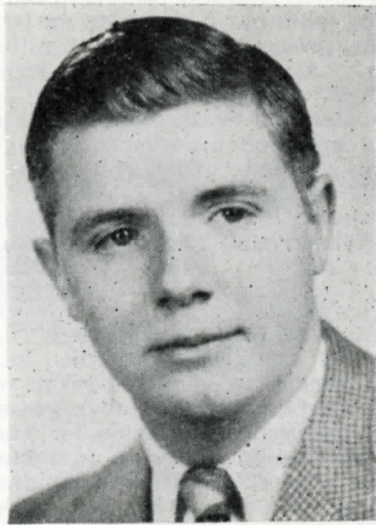
ARABEL BARRETT, (Vangy Tilton) is another senior who has contributed her time and talent to the Curtain Club for four years. Her experience in staging for **The Royal Family**, properties for **The Man Who Came to Dinner**, and acting as the maid in **Ten Little Indians** grants her the leadership of one of the Club's four groups and the rank of a player. She is also a member of the "Y" Cabinet, the Ruby Staff and Rosicrucians.

MILTON MARION (Doctor Ford-Waterlow) is a senior chemistry major returned this year from the service. Before the war, he played the part of the policeman in **Arsenic and Old Lace**.



Charles Williamson

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Jack Norman

BETSY GREENE (Bella Hedley), the historian of the Curtain Club, appears in her first acting part tonight. She worked on costumes for **The Royal Family** and publicity for **Ten Little Indians** and has participated in group plays. Betsy is president of the English Club and a member of Tau Sigma Gamma Sorority, the Ruby Staff and FTA.

EUGENE GLICK (Doctor Chambers) is another freshman member of the cast. At Central High School, he played the Captain in **H.M.S. Pinafore**, the Lord High Executioner in **The Mikado**, and Scrooge in **The Christmas Carol**. He is a Chemistry major and lives at the Annex.

PEGGY CORLISS (Wilson) a sophomore Chemistry major from Glenwood has been active in Jean's Jesters and in committee work for **The Man Who Came to Dinner** but this is her first acting part. She is a member of KDK Sorority and "Y" Council.

JACK NORMAN (Edward Barrett) who plays the domineering father in tonight's production will be remembered for his portrayal of O'Malley in **Mr. and Mrs. North**, Blare in **Ten Little Indians** and Populescu in **Countess Maritza**. He holds the rank of star and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega. In addition to his thespian pursuits, he majors in biology, sings in the Messiah and renders the "Blue Bird of Happiness" for all attentive listeners.

RICHARD REID, WEBB MORRISON, SETH BAKES, FREDERICK TISCHLER, NELSON MOURY (the five Barrett brothers) deserve due credit for their conscientious participation in tonight's performance. These gentlemen hold ranks in the club from extra to star, and range in class from freshmen to seniors; however, one thing they do have in common—the unmistakable Barrett likeness.

WILLIAM KELLER (Octavius) gained recognition for his portrayals of the Frenchman in **Very Good Eddie** and Beverly Carlton in **The Man Who Came to Dinner**. He is a sophomore English major, and a member of the English Club and Jean's Jesters.

EMILE SCHMIDT, (Henry Bevan) is a freshman English major hailing from New York. At DeWitt Clinton High School, he participated in original plays and appeared in **One Touch of Venus** and **Here Comes Mr. Jordan**. This is his first part in a Curtain Club play.

