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# The Show-Off

George Kelly

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**JOHN CARROLL  
UNIVERSITY THEATRE**

LEONE MARINELLO, *Director*

presents

*The Show-Off*

*By George Kelly*

*November 10, and 11*

THE SHOW-OFF by George Kelly was first produced at the Playhouse Theatre, New York, on February 4, 1924. Since then this tremendously human and appealing comedy has been acted from coast to coast with enormous success. Last year it was again brought back to Broadway with Lee Tracy, who was once the boy inventor in the original company, as Aubrey. The comedy was given in the Arena Theatre at the Hotel Edison, and most critics believed it to be an even better play today than it was twenty-seven years ago.

THE SHOW-OFF has been greeted by critics and theatre goers as probably the most brilliant comedy of character that any American dramatist has produced. A comedy of family life, it depends completely on characterization and rather quizzical humor instead of on farce or slap-stick situation. All of George Kelly's characters have two dimensions, a secret not quite known yet to most of our modern sophisticated writers of comedy.

No one can question the authenticity of Aubrey Piper. He moves under his own steam from the moment the curtain rises. He sets the pace and the story follows. This man is no creature born within the wings of the theatre. He has been wrenched out of life.

But there is one more test which must be met by a play if it is to live among drama of the first order. The playwright has done a great deal if he has been able to create a living, breathing, individual human being. He must do more. At some point in the story this fictional man or woman must stand as a symbol of all mankind. There should be in him some recognizable common factor of humanity. And Aubrey meets the test. He brings to us the realization of the toughness of human fibre. In him there glints the glorious truth that character endures against the blows of circumstance.

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The next production of the University Theatre will be Sophocles' *Antigone*, which will run Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27.

Sophocles' *Antigone* probably appeals more directly to modern man than tragedy which has come down to us from fifth-century Athens. The conflict which it presents, between state law on the one side and the natural law on the other, is as meaningful today as it was twenty-four hundred years ago. Thus *Antigone* becomes the personification of man's struggle for independence in matters that pertain to the natural law implanted by God in the heart of every man.

## THE CHARACTERS

*(In the order in which they speak)*

Clara .....	Eileen Casey
Mrs. Fisher .....	Margot Sullivan
Amy .....	Alverda Solens
Frank Hyland .....	Roger Sargent
Mr. Fisher .....	Tom Dugan
Joe .....	Dick Bauhof
Aubrey Piper .....	Mike Gallagher
Mr. Gill .....	Jack Kileen
Mr. Rogers .....	Bill Hussey

★ ★ ★ ★

## THE SCENES

The action of the play takes place in the Fisher household. The time covered is from July to December.

### ACT ONE

Scene 1. Late Wednesday evening.

Scene 2. Three hours later.

Intermission—7 minutes.

### ACT TWO

Six months later.

Intermission—7 minutes.

### ACT THREE

The following Monday.



# THE LITTLE THEATRE SOCIETY

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\* \* \*

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## Acknowledgments

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