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Topaze

Marcel Pagnol

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Pagnol, Marcel, "Topaze" (1968). *Theatre Productions*. 13.
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JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH

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presents

The Little Theatre Society

production of

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TOPAZE

Written by Marcel Pagnol
Translated by Renée Waldinger

November 9 and 10, 1968
8:30 p.m. Kulas Auditorium



OUR NEW LITTLE THEATRE

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the spring play, AGAMEMNON, will be performed in our own new Little Theatre located on the top floor of the Student Activities Center addition.

And it is a further privilege to report that Mr. Richmond Lattimore has granted us permission to stage his translation of the great Aeschylus' AGAMEMNON. Mr. Lattimore's superb rendering of the AGAMEMNON is poetry in its own right, and in its own way.

The new theatre seats 108 people comfortably. Meanwhile, the number of performances will be increased to eight, and we will experiment with a Thursday through Sunday run of two weeks. Tentative dates for AGAMEMNON are: March 20-23; 27-30. Admission will be free, with no reserved seats.

A unique feature of the new Little Theatre is an observation room with a one-way glass wall accommodating 24 more people. This observation room will be used as a classroom in which students can study and discuss a play while it is performed.

The stage is of the open-platform type without a curtain. Both it and the auditorium represent an organic unit, the walls of the stage merging with those of the auditorium. The sides and back of the stage are framed in with an architectural wood facade. The frame has seven openings for variety and fluidity of action. Lights are hung openly and gracefully from the light bridge in the auditorium.

You can see why we believe that our theatre will be one of the most theatrically exciting in the country.

MARCEL PAGNOL and TOPAZE

He who can - does;
He who can't - teaches.

How often have we heard that? How many of us have believed it? How many of us still believe it? Students, parents, benefactors, administrators, and, yes, teachers?

One who never believed this statement and whose personal career gives it the lie is Marcel Pagnol, a former teacher, who wrote TOPAZE primarily to show that not all teachers are the "poor devils of monitors" they might appear to be.

Pagnol is perhaps best known to American audiences by the adaptation of three of his plays into the popular musical, FANNY.

Born in 1895 in Aubagne near Marseilles, Pagnol became a teacher and taught English initially in various lycées in southern France, and eventually in Paris. Later, he became the editor of the literary magazine, FANTASIO.

After his arrival in Paris in 1922 where he taught at the Lycée Condorcet, Pagnol devoted all his attention to the theatre. The impressive success of his play JAZZ (1926) was surpassed by his next one TOPAZE (1928), and his place in the theatre was firmly established.

The first part of Pagnol's Marseilles trilogy, MARIUS, was produced in 1929. FANNY followed in 1931, and CESAR in 1936.

Two short novels, PIROUTTES and LA PETITE FILLE AUX YEUX SOMBRES, are also to his credit.

About 1930 Pagnol became interested in the cinema which, he felt, offered richer possibilities than the stage. He subsequently organized one company to write and produce motion pictures, and another to market them.

Pagnol's theories on the cinema have appeared in a magazine he founded, THE CAHIERS DU FILM. He believes that the cinema represents a separate literary genre which opens new vistas to the writer. In fact, he sees the cinema as a successor to the theatre, and feels that the rules of the classical French theatre should be adapted to the greater freedom of the motion picture. To illustrate these ideas he produced MERLUSSE in 1935.

Marcel Pagnol has produced numerous films, many of which are now considered "classics." TOPAZE was made into a delightful film with the wonderful Fernandel in the title role.

In 1947 he was elected to the French Academy. Not bad, for a former schoolteacher, Oui?

Footnote:

In 1932 the great John Barrymore played the role of TOPAZE in the American screen version by Ben Hecht. Director Harry D'Arrast preserved the "key" speeches from this film on a record to illustrate superb dramatic readings.

THE CHARACTERS

(in the order in which they appear)

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| TOPAZE | NICK DeLUCIA |
| STUDENT | PETER MARINELLO |
| ERNESTINE | MARIE LOUGHEAD |
| MUCHE | GEORGE KEEN |
| TAMISE | ED JOSEPH |
| PANICAULT | JOHN SCHLOSSER |
| SUZE | MICHELLE REILLEY |
| BARONESS | ROSALIE TRAINA |
| CASTEL-BENAC | JIM O'CONNOR |
| BUTLER | RICHARD SNIDER |
| ROGER | MIKE SCHMITTDIEL |
| STENOGRAPHER | KATHRYN GULLA |
| POLICEMAN | RON BRACKIN |
| STENOGRAPHER | NANCY O'LINN |
| OLD MAN | DENNIS GULLA |

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The time of the play is the present.

- Act I - Topaze's Classroom
Act II - Suzy Courtoi's Apartment
Act III and IV - The Office

Intermission

Ten Minutes between Acts

I and II

II and III

* * * * *

PRODUCTION STAFF

Leone J. Marinello Director
John E. Schlosser Stage Manager
William Brett Assistant Stage Manager
George Keen Lighting Director
Dan Roth Graphics Director
Richard Embreus Tech Assistant
Mike Mancino Tech Assistant
Richard Snider Tech Assistant

Set Design by John Schlosser

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James O'Connor President

Nick DeLucia Vice President

James Becker Business Manager

Mike Schmittiel Publicity Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Little Theatre Society extends its warmest thanks to all those departments and individuals--too numerous to list here--who assisted us in presenting this production.

Produced by special arrangement
with
BARRON'S EDUCATIONAL SERIES, INC.

MEET THE L.T.S.

President of the L.T.S. and senior English major, Jim O'Connor is appearing in his seventh role with the Little Theatre. He was last seen in our spring production, Six Characters in Search of An Author, as the Father.

Senior Speech major, Nick DeLucia has been acclaimed for his last two roles in the L.T.S. Last fall he had the part of Meyer Wolfsheim in The Great Gatsby while in the spring he walked the boards as the Son in Six Characters.

Michelle Reilley, a sophomore Speech major, is appearing in her second role with our group. Her credits include the Ingenue in Six Characters as well as a scholarship to the Cleveland Play House Summer Dramatics School at Chautauqua, N. Y.

In the past, junior Speech major, Ed Joseph has given his valuable assistance backstage. Last spring he appeared in Ursuline's production of Talk To Me Like The Rain And Let Me Listen.

George Keen appeared as our temperamental carpenter in Six Characters last year. A junior Speech major, his activities outside of the Little Theatre last year included a part in Ursuline's spring play Portrait of a Madonna.

Mike Schmittiel, a junior Speech major, enacts his second role with us tonight. His first was that of the Juvenile in Six Characters. Prior to this, he worked on crew for two semesters.

Our beloved Stage Manager, John Schlosser, is appearing in his third production. A junior Speech major, John is definitely one of the Little Theatre's mainstays.

Last spring Marie Loughead met immediate success in her portrayal of the Stepdaughter in Six Characters in Search of An Author. A junior Drama major from Ursuline, Marie has done work in association with Great Lakes Shakespeare Festival.

Also from Ursuline is Rosalie Traina. She is a junior majoring in Drama. This is her third year in the L.T.S. and her second role with us. She has been active at the Chagrin Little Theatre as well as at Ursuline.

Ron Brackin last appeared with the L.T.S. in A Man For All Seasons. A senior Speech major, Ron worked four years at the Lakewood Little Theatre.

Rich Snider, a transfer student, is appearing for the first time with us. He is a sophomore, majoring in Speech.

Nancy O'Linn, our loveable drunk in the play, is from Ursuline. In her sophomore year, she is an English major.

Dennis Gulla is a Business major at Carroll. He is appearing with us tonight for the first time.

We have another Gulla in the cast---Dennis' sister Kathy. Last spring she appeared in Six Characters as the infamous Madame Pace. Kathy attends Ursuline and is a junior Drama major.

Peter Marinello is in the ninth grade of Greenview Junior High. This is his fourth production with the L.T.S.

