

# Drama society to produce a "nightmarish play"

Once again the UNB drama society is working in a production to enter in the New Brunswick regional drama festival in a bid to reach the finals of the Dominion drama festival in Kelowna, B.C. this year.

John Osborne's powerful play "Inadmissible Evidence" has been chosen. The English writer of the "angry-young-man" school's first major

success was "Look Back In Anger."

"Inadmissible Evidence" will play at the Playhouse from Tuesday until Saturday with free student-admission. The five-night run, rather than the usual three performances, is a result of the arrangement that the drama society has with Theatre New Brunswick.

"Inadmissible Evidence" will be a co-operative

production. TNB, operating on a meager budget, couldn't afford to pay eight professionals to do a play for them. By co-operating with the drama society, TNB can offer four, instead of three, productions to its subscribers without risking huge losses.

Through the deal the society has reduced rental for Playhouse rehearsal-time and the chance to perform the play

11 times before entering the festival.

After the five-night stint at the Playhouse, "Inadmissible Evidence" will tour the province playing one night stands in St. John, Woodstock, St. Stephen, Moncton and Newcastle. There is also a performance scheduled at Confederation Center in Charlottetown. The Playhouse will pay travel and accommodation.

The play to be directed by UNB prof Alvin Shaw, is difficult. Osborne wrote it ten years after "Look Back In Anger". The earlier play depicts an angry-young-man striving for success while "Inadmissible Evidence" portrays an established solicitor who, having reached his pinnacle, is in a state of general disintegration.

Playhouse director Walter Learning will play the gruelling and rigorous part of the solicitor, Bill Maitland. Learning directed the society's fall production, "Love Rides The Rails." He has a great deal of experience in amateur drama and will need it to play Maitland, who for the entire play, leaves the stage for only one minute.

Maitland is aware that he is losing his grip and becoming increasingly unable to cope with his business, his marriage or his extra-marital love-life. He can see his long-time managing clerk, Hudson, drawing away from him. Art Clogg, a drama society veteran, will play Hudson. Clogg has appeared in such productions as "The Hole" and "My Three Angels".

Maitland also feels threatened by the ambition of his young clerk, Jones, to be played by Myron Mitten, who has taken principal parts in drama society productions "Death of a Salesman" and "Fortune My Foe". Maitland's secretary, Shirley, with whom he has had an affair, has rejected him and handed in her resignation.

The only member of his staff with whom he can communicate is Joy, his young, rather dumb, promiscuous switchboard operator. Judith House acts Joy. She played another fallen woman, Carlotta Cortez, in "Love Rides The Rails".

As the play progresses, Maitland becomes more alienated - his clients lose their individuality and become mere representations of others. James and Hudson appear in his nightmare at the beginning, as Bill's prosecutor and judge. Later Jones appears again in the character of Maples, a homosexual seeking Maitland's defense in court.

Three female clients for divorce are all played by Linda Lean, who has played in three drama society productions including "View From The Bridge". The audience is unaware whether the characters are real or figments of Bill's imagination.

"Inadmissible Evidence" is a powerful play and because of the nightmare scene at the beginning, in which the establishment of a terrifying mood is essential, latecomers won't be allowed to enter until its conclusion.



Walt Learning (right) plays solicitor Bill Maitland in the drama society production "Inadmissible Evidence". Art Clogg (left) and Myron Mitten play two of his antagonists, clerks Hudson and Jones.

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