

Interesting People Gather for a

Wonderful 'T' Time

By ROLF SCHULTZ

The Dalhousie Glee and Dramaic Society, now under pressure in preparing to meet the arrival of opening night, has formally announced the Halifax premiere of the successful 1954 Broadway musical comedy "Wonderful Town," to commence Tuesday, February 28, on a five night engagement in the Gymnasium.

Amidst the heat and confusion of daily rehearsals in Dalhousie's popular athletic center, frequently interspersed by the hammering of the stage crew, comes the director's frantic cry for greater perfection and more flexibility on the part of the actors, more accuracy on the part of the musicians, and for great speed from the waterboy. Soon the time will have arrived when all the odd bids and pieces are tied together by the following character actors.

- Penelope Stanbury Ruth
Peggy Mahon Eileen
Huw Williams Bob Baker
Derek Dalamare The Wreck
Rolf Schultz Chick Clark
Ken Clark Frank Lippencott
Maura Morton Helen
Earl Simon Appopolous
Tony Harris Valenti
Jane Griffen Mrs. Wade
Janet Murray Violet
Produced by Anne Mason and Libby McKean
Musical Director George Naylor
Director Allison Bishop

Wonderful Town, the story of two girls from Ohio attempting to find fame and fortune in New York, is to date perhaps one of the most expensive productions for DGDS, and employs the services of about 65 actors with an additional 100 or more in charge of sets, lighting and makeup. Director of Choreography, Carol Ann Coulson, best described as a short stick of dynamite jumping up and down on a pogostick to the beat of the Conga, has assured us that her dancers will do everything to make the show a success. One wide-eyed observer, having been allowed the pleasure of a front-row seat on one of their rehearsals, commented strongly on the well-qualified talent these girls possess; however, it has yet to be established what definition this observer had in mind when referring to "talent."

Orchestra Members Mostly Imports

Discussing the play from a musical standpoint, George Naylor termed it "the most modern and exciting thing Dal has ever produced." On being asked about the success of the production, he said that he believed a full house could be expected most nights and that the success would depend upon last year's production as well as this year's reviews. Mr. Naylor also

pointed out that, although auditions had been called only five of the 25 musicians were from Dalhousie, showing once again "a distinct college apathy."

Apathy Still an Obstacle

"A wonderful cast, wonderful music, and we're having a wonderful time in a wonderful town," were the words of Director Allison Bishop. However, in addition to this, he added that it had been hard to find sufficient rehearsal space for both dramatic dialogue, as well as for the practise of musical numbers, the gym being occupied most nights by basketball games, dance rehearsals and the stage crew. He thus mentioned the need for a Dalhousie Theatre, where all DGDS productions could be prepared and performed, an idea that would surely be encouraged by all the members of the society. He ended his discussion by stating that it was a "critical" uphill battle without the help of an apathetic faculty and a disinterested council.

The musical comedy was adopted for the stage from the novel "My Sister Eileen" by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Its musical numbers include such memorable tunes as "Pass the Football," "It's Love" and "Ohio," composed by the present conductor of the New York Philharmonic Leonard Bernstein.



Up on cloud nine

—Photo by Risley

UPSTAGE, DOWNSTAGE AND BEHIND THE CURTAINS

U pi D, actors and dancers play cupid, Annoyingly witty and gay, Pancake and warpaint prepared for the make-up, Wonderful Town will be ready to play.

It has been said, and perhaps rightly so, that "All the world's a stage."

—Shakespeare

to which this bright and confident features writer adds: "And all stages are headaches."

—Schultz

to which anyone who has taken the three-week logic course in Math I can readily deduce that:

"All the world's a headache."

—Alfred E. Neuman

(Unfortunately Mr. Neuman has withdrawn from studying the world of mathematics at Dalhousie following an upset stomach and indigestion that even asperin couldn't cure.)



A Good year!

—Photo by Risley

LAST MINUTE MADNESS

Strange sounds issuing from that haven of sanity, the Dalhousie gym? Cannot be. Hmm. Think I'll investigate though, sounds intriguing. And thus it was that I made the mistake of trying to observe a DGDS rehearsal in full swing (dig the rythm), as like Alice in Wonderland I peered through the keyhole..

As I strolled, a little dazed maybe, into the gym, I was fated not to observe. Grabbed by the arm, a whirling bombshell of energy led me off with a "come on, dahlinks. the cops are on now." From this much, I knew rehearsals were a little out of the ordinary, but cops? Helpless on stage, I found the director's eyes glaring at me quite firmly. "We don't need another Irish cop—out." The rest of the fellows all too willingly ousted me backstage. I was thinking grimly that those who sickeningly yell 'Dalhousie. Apathy.' should be here —there was obviously no shortage of spirit—when a voice from above interrupted my thoughts. No, not the second coming, a yell of TIMBER was heard, and a 2 x 4 came flying past, narrowly missing me and my big toe. A wise stage hand, all the more so for his can of beer, winked and intimated that with all the affairs going on here, you really can get hurt you know . . .

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With great enthusiasm and vigah, tottin' my notebook and .45 mm pencil, I slapped my press-hat on top my new Kennedy haircut and rapidly wended my way to 77 Sunset Strip on a scoop for the DGDS production, "Wonderful Town." I was warmly greeted by Appassionata von Climax, who told me I was just in time for another wedding, and I replied that it would be my pleasure to be in attendance. While the preparations were being made, I interviewed Janet Thompson and Judy Lorway, make-up artists for the forthcoming DGDS production.

The Kleenex Kids

I was told that about 65 performers would be receiveing make-up this year, which consisted of pancake, grease and a variety of colour shadings. Furthermore, Kleenex and cold cream would be available afterwards for anyone who plans to attend classes the next morning.

They drew attention to the fact that most of the makeup crew would be graduating this year, thus leaving a definite need for newcomers, but they assured me that Shirreff Hall could find replacements. Confidentially I was told that this can become quite a passionate and dangerous game, to which was quickly added: "It's fun though." Naturally I was shocked and left while Judy's words, "You have never seen us in action," trailed behind me.

In the lobby, it was my misfortune to re-encounter Miss von Climax, who tenderly blinked her eyes at me and asked me to call her "Passion" for short. She reminded me of my promise to attend the now fully-prepared wedding, but

when I found out whom they had in mind for the groom, I quickly slipped out by the side door.

Organized Anarchy

My next stop was the gymnasium, and upon peeking behind the curtains I didn't exactly see an unfamiliar sight, but even to this day Huw Williams insists that there was water in a small green bottle that was so carefully held by its slender neck, while he was relaxing himself on one of Dalhousie's decrepit seats. Upstage the actors were going downstage, and backstage the crew seemed to be on a sit-down strike. From the music room came a "Gesundheit," and from the director came my cue to scam.

Well, I'm back at the Gazette office again and another night has passed. In less than a week, "Wonderful Town", will open but for those working in the production and contributing part of their time to make it a success, it's been a wonderful time in this wonderful town in which they will live for the next week all by themselves in hopes of satisfying an audience which will be so hard to please, and oh so critical. The Gazette wishes DGDS the best of luck.

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Planning the strategy

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