

ARTS

75th Anniversary 1908 - 1983



The arts, aah, the arts...

They have been enriching campus life from its beginning. Not only that, but the University Arts milieu has contributed vitally to the cultural community in Edmonton as a whole.

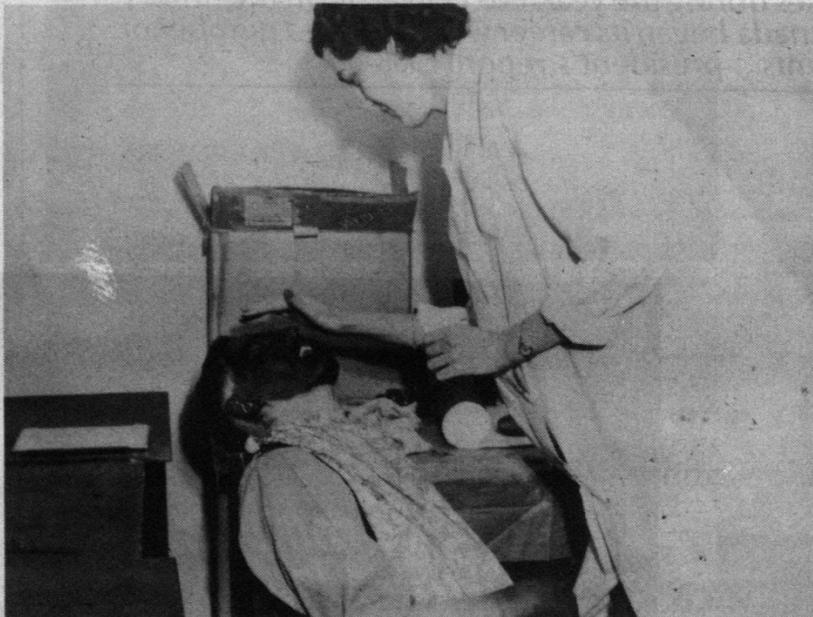
The Arts life on campus has long embraced such various elements as Drama, Debating, Music both "serious" and "frivolous," the Visual Arts, Film, Speakers on the Arts, the French club.

The Literary Association was the name given to the umbrella organization which originally embraced Debating, Drama, Orchestra, and the Glee Club. For many

years it coordinated the artistic activities on campus, and arranged the student productions in these areas cooperatively.

Drama on campus has long maintained the highest of standards. The U of A has reason to be proud of the awards its student drama productions have won.

The trends in popular taste in playwrights for production have changed somewhat over the years. The *Dramat*, or Dramatic Society, put on seven plays by Sir James Barrie between 1921 and 1924. George Bernard Shaw has been enduringly popular, from *You Never Can Tell* in 1921, through *Fanny's First Play* in 1924, *How He*



A make-up artist at work for the play *Watch on the Rhine*, January 1943.



Mock parliaments used to attract a lot more attention, as did debating in general. And why not? It gave us some of our most fearless political leaders.

Lied to her Husband in 1928, *St. Joan* in 1931, *Caesar and Cleopatra* in 1955, *Candida* in 1959, *The Shewing-up of Blanco Posnet* in '59, and more since.

A long-time tradition on campus was the Interfaculty or Interyear Play Festival, which consisted of four one-act plays put on by different faculties or years. This was captured by many impressive plays:

Other local notables who got their artistic starts on campus include Tommy Banks, who wrote the music for Varsity Varieties in 1959; Joe Shoctor, who directed Varsity Varieties in 1945, and Tom Peacocke, who received a silver "A" ring for his efforts starring in Synge's *Playboy of the Western World* in 1955.

In 1960, the U of A Drama Society won



A younger Tom Peacocke starred in Synge's *Playboy of the Western World* in 1955.

Cathleen Ni Hoolihan by Yeats in 1922, *The Artist* by Chekhov (put on by the Junior Class) in 1926, *The Dreamy Kid* by Eugene O'Neill in 1927, and *Ile* (also by O'Neill) in 1928.

In 1958, the adjudicator of the Festival was Walter Kaasa, who later became Assistant Minister of Culture in Alberta. The next year he starred in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* at Studio Theatre.

the Community Players' Shield for *Dope*, called "a powerful play about drug trafficking and the pitiful condition of addicts".

Some plays have been done successfully here more than once: Elmer Rice's *The Adding Machine* in 1930 and 1960; Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano* in 1957 and next month (I hope it will prove successful).

Remember the night you went to the show and ended up in Boston!

Some nights have a way of leaving us with delicious memories.

Seems that everyone has at least one, a special night with someone special. You went to a show, or a game or whatever and ended up in a nice restaurant. A great meal. A great time.

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