



Six British soldiers celebrate Christmas, 1914, in the trenches, in this scene from the DGDS presentation "Oh, what a Lovely War".

"War" Unconventional

This year the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society made a departure from its usual offering and presented Joan Littlewood's Oh! What a Lovely War! Because it is not "just another musical comedy," Oh! What a Lovely War presented certain unique difficulties from the start. There is no plot in the conventional sense of the word. Instead there is a collection of scenes evoking the atmosphere and events in Europe during the course of World War I. The episodes are loosely tied together by songs, narration and slides projected on a downstage screen.

In this production the loose ties were sometimes broken and continuity was lost. When the curtain opened, much of the audience did not know what to expect, and the first few scenes did little to dispel the initial confusion. As the audience became accustomed to the medium, the cast met with more success. Some individual scenes stand out above others -- the "Row, Row, Row" number captured the carefree pre-war atmosphere in Britain, while contrasting scenes built up the increasing threat of war. Janet Clark and her two companions performed their number with an obvious gusto enjoyed by the audience, and Pat Etter and the girls brought off a rousing music hall chorus of "I'll Make a Man Out of You". Slides were used effectively to provide background facts, humorous satire and continuity. Less successful was the narrator, who, instead of acting as a cohesive force, often seemed to be adrift.

Act two, the program informed us, was intended to contrast the ordinary soldiers' life in the trenches with the behind-the-scenes manoeuvring of the elite. The male cast had greatest success in portrayals of the common soldiers, but the second act also contained the greatest imbalance in a generally uneven production. Some of the least successful scenes were those depicting Haig and his associates, intended to satirize the intrigues and petty jealousies of people in high places, the ball scene was a notable failure. It is vital in this part of the play to emphasize the blundering of those in control, but Haig, who should have stood out as the chief idiot, seemed to get lost in the rush, instead of being struck by the complete incompetence of Haig, much of the audience left not even knowing who he was.

The contrast between the feelings of the "Tommy" soldier and the attitude of the "higher-ups" was forcibly brought out in Colin Duerden's portrayal of a fatuous clergyman leading in prayer at the front. This scene showed that necessary contrast could be achieved.

There was trouble with accents at times, and these were important in many scenes, as different characters represented different nations by accent and headgear alone. A few of the cast managed different nationalities well, but other faltered badly. Occasionally supposed Germans or Frenchmen sounded more like residents of Cape Breton or Alabama.

The production was without a hitch technically, and the costumes were imaginative and generally successful. The cast was enthusiastic, and in some scenes, notably at the beginning of the second act, we saw the D.G.D.S. spirit of past years. Perhaps the auditorium was partly to blame for the lack of rapport between audience and cast. A more intimate setting (Ah, Neptune!) would have been more sympathetic, we feel, for this type of production. "Oh! What a Lovely War!" cannot be acclaimed as one of D.G.D.S.'s most successful efforts.

Drama Division Presents Three

The lights of the Studio Theatre, Dalhousie University will soon dim for another evening of entertaining theatre produced by the students and faculty of the Drama Division.

Students are now busy building sets, upholstering furniture and sewing period costumes for the three plays to be produced at the end of this month. The Scandinavian school of naturalism will be represented by August Strindberg's one act play Creditors directed by drama major, Terry De Wolf. His cast includes Clive Sweeney, Doug French, and Jane Purves.

Leslie Campbell another drama student and one of the technical assistants at the Drama Division is directing a fascinating short play The Man With A Flower In His Mouth by Pirandello. The cast will feature Ann Bromley, Richard MacLean, and Jim Archibald.

The third play is O'Flaherty V.C. written by the famous Irish playwright, G.B. Shaw and is directed by drama professor, Alan Andrews. The parts are played by Owen O'Donovan, Liz Hughes, Ian Deakin, and Linda Fraser.

The plays will be held February 28 to March 2 in the Studio Theatre, Library Annex, at 8 p.m. and no tickets are needed.

Arts Society To Be Reborn Tuesday

A necessary revitalization of the Arts Society will be undertaken at a meeting Tuesday, the new president, Brian Ashworth, has announced. Ashworth stated, "For too many years the Arts Society has existed merely for the sake of the Arts Ball, whereas the new plan will provide activities with an intellectual and an academic basis."

The re-organizing meeting will be held Tuesday, February 27 at 11:30 a.m., in Room 234 of the A & A Building.

According to Ashworth's announcement, the first step in the establishment of the "NEW Arts Society" will be the formation of various clubs within each discipline of the Arts Faculty. The proposed clubs consist of Psychology, Romance Languages, Sociology, History, English, Philosophy, Political Science and Economics. The purposes and functions of the smaller organizations will be practically unlimited. Too many Arts students, Ashworth said find themselves faced with the dilemma of what the future holds for a person with a BA. With faculty members serving as advisors to the clubs, it is hoped that a rapport can be established between professors and students through which students may learn where they are going both as undergraduates and after graduation. Philosophy debates, a Spanish Film Society, Sociology and Political Science Interaction groups, Psychology trips, retreat, guest lecturers, and the Arts Ball are all expected to be part of the NEW Arts Society.

Plans will be expanded at Tuesday's meeting. Elections for the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer will also be held at the meeting. King's College students are welcome.

LSD-insight or insanity

By LINDA BAYERS

What makes a drug socially acceptable? Firstly, its success in treating disease and secondly, its effect upon the nervous system of which the brain is the center.

It is this second use of drugs - LSD, STP, Marijuana, - that have brought words of restraint from doctors and those who know the effect of these drugs on the brain.

Mr. A.V. Pinky, here promoting a film called "Insight or insanity", warned that anyone thinking about taking these drugs should take "a long, long, hard second look. When a brain cell is destroyed, it is never regenerated. Scar tissue, and other cells may take up the function of these destroyed cells, but not as effectively."

A drug is either a stimulant or a depressant. Stimulants, i.e. pep pills, can make a person tense and irritable, cause the heart to beat irregularly, tighten the blood vessels and raise blood pressure, and cause muscles to jerk. A depressant-marijuana, LSD, heroin-reduces vital bodily functions.

According to Mr. Pinky, "a scientific study by Doctor Coin from California on 5000 young people showed that marijuana suppresses learned behavior patterns instilled by adults. Marijuana gives a feeling of well-being but distorts appearance of world, time, space, speed, and destroys judgement. Although it is not addictive, its use leads to the seeking of the bigger thrills and experiences of the stronger drugs -heroin and LSD.

"LSD too distorts appearance of space, time and judgement. It affects different people differently. Some have a pleasant reaction-others are terrified. It always prevents a person from thinking clearly. Permanent brain damage and chromosomal changes can result from repeated use of LSD.

Mr. Pinky warned that the use of LSD is reaching epidemic proportions. "President Johnson is going to introduce a bill in congress to make the production, sale, possession, and distribution of drugs which affect the nervous system a felony punishable up to 5-10 years in prison," he commented.

OFF BASE

Now I've HEARD all this NONSENSE about the STUDENT as a NIGGER! About 'em having no rights and no protection and so-called student-teacher SEGREGATION and I just want to get a few blasted things STRAIGHT! I mean I guess I KNOW my STUDENTS!

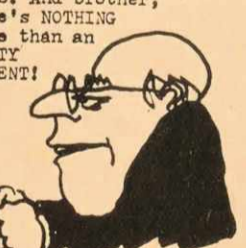
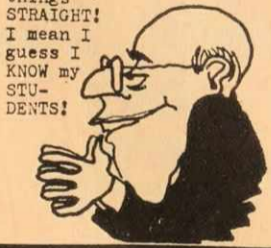
Firstly, let me say some of my BEST friends are STUDENTS and BASICALLY you couldn't WISH to meet a more POLITE, RESPECTFUL, HAPPY lot when they know their place. Why some of 'em are even quite ATTRACTIVE... (chuckle) Yeah!

With their own kind they seem to ENJOY themselves IMMENSELY...dancing... (got a lotta rhythm!)...wearing gaudy clothes! We TEACHERS say if you could be a STUDENT just ONE Saturday night you'd NEVER want to be a teacher AGAIN! (chuckle) And they're VERY good in SPORERS!

But GOSH DARN it some folks talk about 'em like they were US! And FAGE it, what contribution are they making to the ARTS? How many DOCTORS, LAWYERS and BUSINESS LEADERS are STUDENTS? Biologically they're just not EQUIPPED to handle FREEDOM and POWER!

So these OUTSIDERS who try to STIR 'em UP over RIGHTS and such are just making TROUBLE for EVERYBODY! First thing they'll want to write on every line and use staff washrooms and call us by our FIRST NAMES! And brother, there's NOTHING worse than an UPPITY STUDENT!

And just between us would you want one to marry your daughter?



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