



CAUGHT IN THE ACT—Judith Bliss (Jane Clow) descends the stairs to find her husband, David (Lee Crowell) in the embrace of another woman, Myra (Barbara McColough). The scene which follows is a dramatic explosion. —Photo by Marshall



H. Leslie Pigot, director of Hay Fever, who has added another laurel to his garland of well-directed plays. Mr. Pigot has been with Dal for many years, and has been untiring in his efforts to help and improve student productions.



NOT CAUGHT IN THE ACT—"Nice weather we've been having". Richard (Robin McNeil) weekend guest, is doing his best to resist the advances of his hostess, Judith Bliss (Jane Clow), in the absence of the other members of the household and other guests. —Photo by Marshall

"Hay Fever" Presented by Glee Club to Appreciative Student Audience In Gym

"The best and most humorous production presented in the Dal Gym in many a day." With those words a member of the student audience summed up his feelings as he prepared to leave the Gymnasium after the performance of Noel Coward's "Hay Fever", presented this week by the Glee Club. He may possibly have exaggerated the merits of the performance, but it was, all in all, a good one.

Directed by H. Leslie Pigot, the play joins the series of his successes with the Glee and Dramatic Society over the last six years. The play itself concerns a theatrical family and its guests during a weekend at the family's country home. The family consists of a retired actress' mother, a novelist father, and an artistic son and daughter. Each of the family, having invited a guest of the opposite sex for the weekend, subsequently leaves the guest to his or her own devices, as a family quarrel breaks out. As the quarrel subsides, the mother discovers, one by one, each of her family in a compromising position with someone else's guest. Believing the worst, she embarrasses the guests to such an extent that each one makes a more or less hurried exit, leaving the family to resume its normal life.

Jane Clow as "Judith", the mother, turned in a remarkable performance. Her effort was one of the most admirable, if not the most admirable, of the production. She was required to remember far more than any other member of the cast, quite apart from the fact that she had a difficult role to play. She had to be an actress within an already-played part—a feat which requires untold ability. She was required to play her prime role and yet very often throughout the evening, to enliven her voice with even more inflexions and more meaning in her second and almost equally important role. As a newcomer to Dalhousie, and, indeed, to drama itself, she deserves the highest praise.

Bernie Keeler, who played the role of the rather comical, changeable artist-son of the family, was not outstanding. He possesses,

however, a clear, rich, expressive voice, which is an asset to any player—likewise to any play—and could be heard easily and distinctly at all times from the farthest side of the Gymnasium. His good performances were generally done in bits. He did not maintain the desirable, consistent, level of good acting throughout, and rather tended to give forth his best in uneven spurts and starts.

Norma Messenger's part was not great, but what she played was played well. Considering the quality and not the quantity of her lines, she was the best actress of the evening. Her voice was at times too high pitched, but even its high pitch was thoroughly in keeping with that of the comical, fussy little scullery maid, whose role she played. She was the most enjoyable, most entirely humorous character within the entire comedy.

Barbara McColough as Myra, one of the weekend visitors, was often too vague. Her stage appearance was good; her entrances and exits could not have been improved upon. She lacked personality, however, and possessed a disagreeable "sameness" throughout the play which left room for improvement.

Joanne Murphy's performances as Jackie, another visitor, was not the best. Throughout, one was always totally aware that she was acting. It was difficult ever to think of her as Jackie because she could never quite keep up with her role. She was always essentially Joanne Murphy, and as a result seemed to lack that necessary realism. The effect may, however, have been largely due to a lack of experience and it is quite possible that the same actress who, it must be remembered, is a newcomer, may indeed prove an asset to the dramatic Society in the future.

Margo MacLaren was good. Her voice possessed a weak and broken unsteady effect early in the play, but she gained an admirable amount of fine stage presence, charm, and matter-of-fact good acting, as the evening progressed, which at times almost

made the play. Her performance this year left little to be desired.

Lee Crowell was excellent. He spoke his lines throughout with an ease and dignity which seemed to suit him to a "T", the personality of the rather quiet, retiring novelist portrayed. He could by no means have been better.

One of the most pleasant surprises of the evening was the well done part of Sandy, played by Edwin Rubin. Wednesday night was Rubin's first appearance on the Dal stage, and it is sincerely hoped that it will not be his last. His voice was low, but plain and full at all times, and indeed, he performed with an easy dignity and dramatic quality worthy of highest commendation.

Robin McNeil was fairly good although his performance was, to sum, somewhat of a disappointment after the excellence of his last year's presentation in Othello. Robin's stage appearance was not good, principally because his face was made up so poorly as to be almost humorous when a humorous effect was certainly not desired. Robin's dramatic effort, even at its worst, however, it not bad—it is just that his role was a rather sympathetic, shallow one, perhaps not worthy of his ability.

Directing "Hay Fever" was H. Leslie Pigot, who has produced so many other top-notch pieces of entertainment for Dalhousie audiences in the past. The extent to which he was responsible for the general smooth flowingness of last Wednesday night's performance can hardly be over-estimated. Mr. Pigot has added another to his long line of successes at Dalhousie.

"Hay Fever" brought to a close the Glee Club's dramatic activities for this portion of the term. All seem with one accord to agree that although both productions (this and "The Marriage Proposal") have not been perfect in the sense that professional productions are sometimes perfect, they have held their own among first productions of the past at Dalhousie and have certainly succeeded in fulfilling our early hopes in something close approaching amateur excellence.

Maritime Universities Present Inter-Collegiate Drama Festival

By BETTY LIVINGSTONE

"Superb."

That was the way the large crowd of students and Alumni, who all but filled the gymnasium despite bad weather, described the four one-act plays presented by the Maritime Inter-Collegiate Drama Festival on last Saturday evening.

After a few words of welcome to Alumni by Student's Council President Sherman Zwicker, the curtain was raised at 8 o'clock to the King's College Robertson Davies presentation "Eros At Breakfast". The voices of actors Donald Trivett, Lloyd Gesner, Donald Clark and Charles Collis were excellent and the mysterious atmosphere desired, even though costumes were few and stage settings at a minimum, carried throughout.

Next came Dalhousie's humorous "Marriage Proposal"—one of the best pieces of dramatic entertainment, it was agreed, ever to have been presented by Dalhousie players. Directed by Professor C. L. Bennett, it possessed the perfect character-portrayal of the best of Glee Club Shakespearean productions and the thoroughly humorous atmosphere of the most enjoyable of Glee Club comedies.

Al McMahan, Natasha Coffin, and Robin McNeil, all "veteran" actors to some extent, put forth a truly remarkable display of first-rate talent. Acadia University's "Twelve Pound Look" was, too, a delightfully humorous production. Norma Hatfield, who played Acadia's role of "Kate", succeeded in giving her part the care-free air it demanded. Frances Collins, Robert Dow, and even butler Leslie Loomer were excellent.

Lastly, Mount Allison University presented W. S. Milne's "Lampshade". The dreary atmosphere and ghostly lines given by players Ian MacMillan, Shirley Meisner, and George Stark were "first-

class". The portrayals were remarkable, producing every moment the spine-tingling effect desired.

The theme of the Inter-Collegiate Drama Group has been, since its inauguration last March, "co-operative rather than competitive" dramatic endeavour but, had last Saturday's performance been "competitive", it would have been almost impossible to have chosen a "best" presentation.

The purpose of the Festival, as stated last March, is "to open up new avenues of fraternalism, giving all a keener insight into what may be accomplished in the field of inter-university co-operation . . ." At that time it was decided that the Festival, as stated last March, is "to open up new avenues of fraternalism, giving all a keener insight into what may be accomplished in the field of inter-university co-operation . . ." At that time it was decided that the Festival would be held during the first week-end of November of each year and, even before the audience had shuffled from the gymnasium, this year's players were discussing plans for next November's performances.

"Eros At Breakfast", "Marriage Proposal", "Twelve Pound Look", and "Lampshade" were presented at Acadia on Friday, November 3 and at Mount A. on last night, November 6. At Acadia and at Mount A., admission to the Festival for both students and outsiders was 50c but, through the generosity of the Students' Council, who paid the difference, Dalhousie students paid 25c only.

CBC To Send Greetings

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has announced that West Indian students attending Dalhousie University will be able to send Christmas messages to their friends and relatives in the Caribbean through the facilities of the C.B.C. International Service.

The message will be recorded at the studios in Halifax early next week, and rebroadcast over the

various West Indian radio stations on Christmas Eve.

This service applies to students from Jamaica, Barbados, British Guiana, and Trinidad.

All those wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should contact Ralph L. Persad at Pine Hill Residence immediately. Phone 3-9691.

Giant Pep Rally Tonight

Band - Bon Fire - Teams - Cheer Leaders

EVERYBODY COME

Place -- On Studley Between Field and Hall

Time -- 7 p. m.