

Studio Theatre Only Edmonton Group Regularly Presenting Plays

By Peter Kirchmeir

"Theatre going is not a tradition on this campus as it is in the Universities in Britain and the United States," Professor

Peacock, head of the drama division, said during a recent interview.

"I feel that Canada being the melting pot of European culture

has no tradition of Theatre, and that it is extremely important that we should have the opportunity and knowledge to see European Theatre culture," Mr.

Peacock further explained, when asked the purpose of Studio Theatre.

Mr. Peacock went on to say that there is no other agency in Alberta that offers acting training. There are no professional schools or theatre centers.

The University has a responsibility to the community at large and also to the University community. Since 1948 no theatre in Edmonton has presented plays regularly. Studio Theatre has changed this to some degree, as local groups have formed under the leadership of persons trained at the University.

Studio Theatre is the laboratory for the drama division. It provides practical training for students, and an opportunity for interested adults to appear in plays not otherwise produced. For example, all five major productions last year were new to Alberta, and the works of some of the authors had never been produced in this province before.

A fresh approach is provided by guest directors from the experienced people in the community. The small staff cannot direct all the plays, therefore this practice will be continued in the future. It is also hoped that professional artists of high reputation can be engaged to direct and design for Studio Theatre.

The growth of Studio Theatre has been slow. "We are guests in the Education Building, and we are expanding, but our expansion has been hampered by the lack of adequate facilities," Mr. Peacock said.

Notwithstanding the poor facilities, Studio Theatre has

gained the reputation of doing some of the best work in the West. "It is not the edifice that proves the personality of the work, but the philosophy" explained Mr. Peacock.

Alberta was the second University to establish a drama division, and for many years has had the largest enrollment. The emphasis is laid more on educational drama than just on productions.

Last year the General Faculty Council approved a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drama, the first of its kind in Canada. It is hoped to institute the program next year. It will have a broader selection of practical and theoretical courses than can now be offered. Designing, aesthetics, foreign languages and psychology, with options from art, music, and the classics will enrich the basic core of the degree.

Graduate students are doing important work, in teaching in particular. Most of the drama teachers in Edmonton received their training here. Julie Terfloth obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, and will be teaching at the University of South Florida next year. Harold Baldrige is acting for the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. Walter Kaasa is now Cultural Co-ordinator for the Province of Alberta.

Many former students have entered the professional theater and are earning their living in it. Although they have not had any astounding success, it is only to be expected as they are only starting in this field.



FIRST STUDIO PRODUCTION

Edmonton Chamber Music Society's Second Concert Resounding Success

The Edmonton Chamber Music Society's second concert, Monday evening in Convocation Hall, continued the level of competence of the Society's first concert.

Although one instrumental group had shaky moments, seldom-heard works by Schubert and Dohnanyi were refreshing novelties and the evening was capped by humorous

works. The concert highlight was the performance of Dohnanyi's Sonata, Opus 21, by Marguerite Marzantowicz (violin) and Thelma Johannes (piano).

Miss Marzantowicz achieved considerable tonal variety, from the tender sounds of the slow movement and the passages of passionate gloom in the Vivace. Technically and artistically competent, just below the level of a

full-time concert artist, she has the gift of becoming involved in the music she plays.

Her accompanist Miss Johannes, who played a Concertino in the Society's first recital, again proved herself as a pianist: control with expression is always the mark of a good performer. The two women gave what was easily the best performance of the evening.

While still in school (1814), Franz Schubert wrote a Guitar Quartet for a group of friends. It lay in a Vienna attic until 1919, when its discovery prompted a few curious performances. The work, however, excels in neither melody nor form, and deservedly remains little-known. Joan Pecover (flute), Chris Jordan (guitar), Dorothe Langmo (viola) and Harcourt Smith (cello) played the Quartet well. Mr. Smith's high notes were beautifully clear but his supporting sounds lacked resonance. Miss Pecover at times overshadowed the other players, but redeemed herself with fluency in decorative passages.

The program finished with "They are off" and "Mr. Tortoise wins the race." The Quintet played at its best in these inane works by NBS Staff Composer Don Gilles.

Good Year For Chorus

Norman Bogner of the Mixed Chorus stated Tuesday that the chorus was experiencing another good year. The musical group is at present practising for their winter concerts.

The chorus will put on three concerts in Con Hall and probably will present three more concerts outside the city during the holidays.

The group consists of approximately 155 students led by Mr. R. S. Eaton. Pianist is Lynne Newcombe.

Tryouts at the beginning of the year slimmed down the new prospects from 160 to 80 students.

The regular practices are on Saturdays from 1:30 to 4 p.m. in Room 2022 in the Medical Building. Sectional rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m.

Songs being rehearsed are "The Magnificat," "The Turning Year," "Last Words of David," "She's Like a Swallow" and "Whether Men Do Laugh or Weep."

A ten-day concert tour of towns in Alberta is being planned for the spring.

Scrabble And Evans Continued From Four

Not bloody likely!

If the students at this University can read this insipid and disgusting propaganda trash and remain indifferent, then there's something very wrong. There are obviously scabs on this campus who are members of this Nazi party. If not on campus, they are working in the Edmonton area. Let's find out who they are and get a rope . . . and I'll spring the trap! The U of A can use people like these in the anatomy lab. Why kill animals when you can get something lower?

The Lighter Side: The other day,

the Socreds (bless their pointed heads) held a public debate resolving something or other. Having nothing else to do, one Hyndman and myself plus another ventured to this debate to heckle. Great fun was had by all, but two of the high mucky-mucks of the Social Credit Club (Ernie's Golden boys) took extreme umbrage at this discerning criticism, and suggested that we take them on in a public debate, the losers to suffer the ultimate disgrace of firing squad by whipped cream and meringue pies at the hands of the winners. So be it. Bill Downton and Doug Saunders, you are hereby challenged by the Scrabblers and the Co-ordinator of Student Activities to a public debate, thereby to be made

a sorry spectacle in the eyes of all who shall attend. The losers must also draw the winners about the campus in a gaily-decorated cart and shall be whipped for their pains. I doubt if you two will accept this challenge, because you know that you'd lose. RSVP.

If a man sitting in the sun tried to swat every fly that bothered him, he would slowly be driven mad . . . Therefore, I choose to ignore any more letters from House Ec.

Late Flash: Be sure to read Reflections in this issue. It might make some people think. Thinking is good for students . . . once in a while.



AND THE LATEST