



Miss Smith

Dramatics

The art of the theatre is expressed in terms of human beings—live ones, moving, speaking, and depicting varied emotions—herein lies the deep and universal appeal of the theatre.

The dramatic season at the Northwest School is inaugurated in the crisp freshness of an autumn day. The curtain rises on a scene of fast-moving, scintillating comedy. A bridegroom is in consternation over the loss of a collar button at the crucial moment before the wedding ceremony. Facetious complications increase as the plot develops, furnishing rollicking fun for all. The audience is enthusiastic in its reception of this one-act play, "A Wedding," by John Kirkpatrick. The bridegroom is David Anderson; the bride, Lois Sargent; the best man, Willis Holland; and other members of the cast are: Jerome Molacek, Selmer Johnson, Esther Haugo and Margaret Lerud.

The scene changes to Thanksgiving Day with gaily decorated tables, roast turkey, full tummies and drowsy feelings! What more appropriate time for Margaret E. Clifford's "Sleeping Beauty" to dream her fascinating dream upon the stage! The old fairy story of the enchanted princess who falls asleep for a legendary hundred years is retold with enough wit and vivacity to keep the audience awake. Its human and unforgettable characters are delightfully portrayed by the following cast: William Sitko, the King; Esther Haugo, the Queen; Agatha Olson, the Princess; Glenn Ellinger, the Prince; Amaryllis, Irene Holst; Ladies-in-waiting: Lois Sargent, Joyce Starnes, Fern Field, Laura Hanson; Cabinet members: Burnett Bergeson, Francis Nelson, Earl Lindberg, Bertrum Johnson and Kenneth Gaare. Esther Haugo's delineation of the queen is especially fine.

Again the scene changes, this time to an historical setting in Old Florence depicting an episode in the life of Young Michael Angelo. The cast members are: Werner Weindorf, Ralph Kinshella, Hugh Hoard, Yvonne Magnusson, Morris Dahl, Raymond Higgin, Marvin Nabben and Harvey Claussen.

As weeks pass by winter steals down across the campus. A magnificent fir tree comes to life with an array of warm multi-colored lights which radiate waves of Christmas cheer over the campus. Early morning carollers sing Yuletide hymns which linger and whisper along the hallways. At this season the miracle of the Christmas Chimes is again dramatized

upon the stage in Elizabeth McFadden's "Why the Chimes Rang." Members of the cast are: Noel Hanson, Harold Sanden, Morris Engelstad, Ruth Lerud, Torlied Boe, Donald Gandrud, Joyce Starnes, Margaret Lerud and Belva Holm.

The traditional blizzards of the cold winter months are no obstacle to aspiring young Bernhardtts and Barrymores in the Senior class. This is evident in the enthusiastic spirit of competition displayed over roles in the class play, "Smilin' Through."

This idealistic and fantastical drama by Allan Langdon Martin has been popular for many years and has brought world renown to many American as well as foreign players. As an amateur cast, the Seniors gave a very commendable performance on February 26. The names of the cast and production staff appear on the opposite page.

Several players merit special recognition for outstanding interpretations. Noel Hanson in the difficult role of John Carteret played with remarkable sensitiveness and understanding, emphasizing fine subtleties in interpretation and gesture. Burnett Bergeson played the lovable Dr. Harding with dignity flavored with good bits of pointed humor. The role of Moonyeen, the spirit bride, was beautifully portrayed by Joyce Starnes with a sweet, rich loveliness. The young Irish lead, Kathleen, was very capably interpreted by Laura Hanson whose work was sensitive and thorough in detail. William Munby created a strongly delineated character as the villain.

As March winds and spring fever invade the campus, the year's dramatic events draw to a close. The advanced class for the last time "struts and frets its hour upon the stage." A one-act play contest, student directed and student acted by members of the Advanced class, is the final presentation of the year. Among the group of original plays, Torlied Boe's "Terje Viken," a drama in five scenes, proves to be the most outstanding achievement. Other productions which receive enthusiastic acclaim are: "Ile," a tragedy by Eugene O'Neill; "The Passing of Chow Chow," a comedy by Elmer Rice; "At the Stroke of Twelve," a mystery by Aaron Bishop; "Pierrot's Mother," a fantasy by Glenn Hughes, and scenes from "The Royal Family" by Kaufman and Ferber, and "Giants in the Earth" by O. E. Rolvaag.

And now, having come "smilin' through" another year of dramatic activity at the Northwest School, we shall ring down the final curtain.