

HEDDA GABLER

A
TRAGEDY
By
HENRIK
IBSEN
●



Seaver

PLAYERS' CLUB

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY PRESENTATION

MARCH 13TH 14TH 15TH 16TH

UNIVERSITY THEATRE

Twentieth Anniversary Presentation

of the
University Players' Club



"Hedda Gabler"

by
Henrik Ibsen



University Theatre
Point Grey

March 14, 15, 16
Curtain 8.25 p. m.

The History of the Players' Club

The Players' Club is the oldest club at the University and has always claimed to be the foremost. It has done much to bring amateur dramatics in British Columbia to their present honoured position.



Just six weeks after the University came into existence in the old "shacks" at Fairview, students of Professor F. G. C. Wood's drama course felt the urge to produce plays. They elected Mr. Wood as honorary president and director and organized a club, then open to any student but now restricted, by competitive try-outs, to 70 members. With Jerome K. Jerome's "Fanny and the Servant Problem," presented on February 18, 1916, in aid of the University Red Cross, repeated by request and given also in Victoria and New Westminster, the Players' Club began both its annual tour and its contributions to charity.

The club raised \$6,000 for the University Red Cross, Western Universities Battalion, Shaughnessy Military Hospital and other war-time purposes, \$1,500 for a University war memorial, \$4,100 for stage equipment and \$200 for Green Room furnishings. The Vancouver General Hospital and the Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, have received large sums through Players' Club efforts; and all tour profits, beyond guaranteed expenses, have been turned over to the local sponsors for charity work.

The tour grew rapidly, as can be seen from the list of plays and number of performances: 1916, "Fanny and the Servant Problem," times; 1917, "Merely Mary Ann," Israel Zangwill, four times; 1918, "Alice Sit-by-the-Fire," Sir James M. Barrie, four times; 1919, "The Importance of Being Earnest," Oscar Wilde, three times; 1920, "Green Stockings," A. E. W. Manson, ten times; 1921, "Sweet Lavender," Sir Arthur Pinero, twelve times; 1922, "Mr. Pim Passes By," A. A. Milne, seventeen times; 1923, "You Never Can Tell," George Bernard Shaw, fifteen times; 1924, "The World and His Wife," J. Echegaray, eighteen times; 1925, "You and I," Philip Barry, twenty times; 1926, "Pygmalion," George Bernard Shaw, eighteen times; 1927, "The Romantic Young Lady," G. Martinez Sierra, eighteen times; 1928, "Polly with a Past," George Middleton and Guy Bolton, twenty-three times; 1929, "Rollo's Wild Oat," Clare Kummer, twenty times; 1930, "Friend Hannah," Paul Kester, twenty-three times; 1931, "The Young Idea," Noel Coward, twenty-five times; 1932, "Alice Sit-by-the-Fire," Sir James M. Barrie, nineteen times; 1933, "Alibi," Agatha Christie and Michael Morton, seventeen times; 1934, "Caesar and Cleopatra," George Bernard Shaw, four times.

Last year's spectacular show could be produced only in the University Theatre, but this year the tour will be renewed and, if possible, extended into Alberta and Washington. The tour establishes contact with outlying parts of British Columbia, and provides wonderful training for actors.

But the work of the Players' Club by no means consists of the spring play only. Four one-act plays are given annually at Christmas, mainly for the benefit of new members and with no charge for admission. They have always been of high standard.

Another activity is the Play Distribution Bureau, which helps amateurs all over the province by sending them plays free on request.

The club encourages student playwrights by a \$50 prize and production of the winning play. In 1931 no less than three student plays were given, and one, "Fog," by Mr. Sydney Risk, has recently had world broadcast by the B.B.C.

The Players' Club has also developed distinguished actors. Miss Jessie Todhunter, first leading lady, played on Broadway, Miss Dorothy Adams in repertory, and Mr. Garrett Livingstone at Hollywood; others in the Little Theatre and Players' Club Alumni. In the Regional Drama Festival last year eight of the nine competing casts contained former Players' Club actors.

As early as 1921, Mr. J. Butterfield wrote in *The Province*: "The U.B.C. Players' Club has succeeded in the face of the greatest difficulties in bringing its annual performances to a pitch of perfection that I have never seen equalled by amateurs in a very wide experience of the drama." For this the credit belongs chiefly to the directors: Mr. Wood, 1915 to 1931 (excepting 1929); Mrs. W. A. Ferguson, 1929; Mr. Sydney Risk, 1932 and 1933, and Miss Dorothy Somerset, 1934 and 1935. Thanks are also due to Mrs. D. A. Suttie, gracious chaperone on 14 tours, and to the Christmas play coaches, particularly Dr. A. F. B. Clark.

(Continued on Back Page)



"People don't do such things!"

Don't they?

Well, Hedda Gabler does. Her story, says William Archer, is "the most poignant character-tragedy in literature."

Hedda is a flesh portrait of a hyper-aesthetic woman — poised, cultivated, intellectual, yet torn by repressions. She is a moral coward, jealous and selfish, hopelessly warped by conflicting passions. In short, as one cynical critic remarks, "she is the woman you took in to dinner last night."

Of all Ibsen's plays this is the most perfectly shaped, the most clear-cut and direct. It is not only good literature, but good theatre. Like "Camille," it is the goal of every ambitious actress, and has been the favourite vehicle of such stars as Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Mrs. Fiske, Alla Nazimova, Eleanora Duse and Eve Le Gallienne.

In celebrating its twentieth anniversary by presenting "Hedda Gabler" for the first time in Western Canada, the Players' Club truly "comes of age" and takes its place in the adult theatre.

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HEDDA:

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CAST

(in order of appearance)

MISS TESMAN	Marjorie Griffin, '36
BERTA	Mary Moxon, '38
GEORGE TESMAN	Stuart Keate, '35
HEDDA	Eunice Alexander, '38
MRS. ELVSTED	Audrey Phillips, '37
JUDGE BRACK	Hugh Palmer, '35
EILERT LÖVBORG	William Sargent, '34

The action is not dated. The setting chosen for this performance is late nineteenth century.

The scene throughout is laid in the drawing room of the George Tesman's villa.

The action takes place on the two days following the Tesmans' return from a trip abroad.

There will be an interval of nine minutes between Acts 2 and 3. The other intervals will be of three minutes each.



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Feature write-up — Gerald Prevost, convener; Margaret Ecker, William Robertson, Lloyd Hobden.

Tickets—Betty Moscovich, convener; Dorothy Menten, Gordon Cummings, Armand Powlett, Bob King, Gertrude Pitman, Estelle Matheson.

Programmes — Mary McGeer, Stu Clarke, Eileen Simon, Charlie Locke, Dorothy Planche.

Stage Manager—Allan Walsh.

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Costumes—Hugh Palmer, designing; making, etc., Hazel Wright, convener, Mary Dickson, Dorothy Planche, Kay Youdall.

Properties — Amy Seed, convener; Hazel Merten, Frances Wright, Leo Gansner.

Make-up—Vivian Hood, convener; Margaret Palmer.

House Manager—Eleanor Gibson.

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(In an effort to keep the membership list up-to-date the Players' Club will be glad to have any errors or omissions brought to its attention)

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- | | | |
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 Doris Baynes '25 (Mrs. E. Wooliams),
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 John C. Berto '20, London, England
 John Billings '29
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 Kenneth Caple '25, Summerland
 Harry M. Cassidy '22, Victoria
 May Christison '26, Midlothian, Scotland
 George Clark '22, Abbotsford
 Bice Clegg '25 (Mrs. Kenneth Caple),
 Summerland
 Bonnie Clement '18 (Mrs. J. P. C. Southcott)
 Shirley Clement '17 (Mrs. C. Murison),
 England
 Wells Coates '22, Herts, England
 Willson Coates '20, Rochester, New York
 J. C. A. Cole '31, New Zealand
 John Coleman '30, Toronto
 Norah E. Coy '18 (deceased)
 D. B. Charlton '25, Lincoln, Nebraska
 Alphonse Crawford '22, Edmonton
 Reginald Cribb '21, New Westminster
 Doris Crompton '29 (Mrs. Geo. Anderson),
 West Vancouver
 Mary Darnborough '33 (Mrs. Roddon Irving),
 Kamloops
 Merril Debrisay '17, Toronto
 Ethelwyn Dee '29 (Mrs. Logan), Kelowna
 Archie Dick '34, Cumberland
 Malcolm Dickson '23 (deceased)
 Charles A. Duncan '16 (deceased)
 L. Eckert '23, Toronto
 James E. Ellard '21, Dallas, Texas
 R. C. Elsey '24, Departure Bay, V.I.
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 Harold Etter '24, Port Haney
 Maudeen Farquhar '34
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 Eric Jackson '24, Grand Prairie, Alta.
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 Vera Muddell '17 (Mrs. A. Meston), Winnipeg
 L. A. Murphy '25, New Westminster
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 J. Cecil Nelson '20, London, England
 Gerald Newmarch (deceased)
 Eric North '31, Armstrong
 Virginia Page '18 (Mrs. Kirtley) U.S.A. Navy
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 R. C. Palmer '21, Summerland
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 New York
 Gerald Stevens '26, Saanichton
 Margaret Stewart '35, Toronto
 Mary Stewart '32, New York
 Maizie Suggett '17 (Mrs. A. Cook),
 Seattle, Washington
 Nancy Symes '34, Cambridge, England
 Alistair Taylor '32, New Westminster
 C. J. Taylor '34, North Vancouver
 Tom. Taylor '25, Toronto
 Gordon Telford '25, Cambridge, Mass.
 Hester Thompson '28, Toronto

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Edith Tisdall '29 (Mrs. Harley Hatfield),
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Sheila Tisdell '31, Toronto
Jessie Todhunter '18 (Mrs. John Tainter Foote)
Beaverskill
Ronald Todd '28, Seattle, Washington
Frances Tremayne, William Head, V.I.
Dorothy Trapp '19 (Mrs. Roger Countryman),
Minneapolis, Minn.
G. G. Vincent '26, London, England
Alice Walter '26, London, England
Violet Walsh '18 (Mrs. A. R. Woods),
Bristol, England

Eleanor Walker '33, Brentwood, V.I.
Beecher Weld '18, Toronto
Helen Weshbrook '19 (Mrs. G. C. Robertson),
London, England
Alice White '29, Greenwich, Conn.
Helen White '17 (Mrs. C. Thormen),
Calcutta
Norah Willis '22 (Mrs. R. Michener),
Toronto
Betty Wilson '33, New Westminster
R. H. Wright '28, Frederickton, N.B.
Anatole Zaitzeff '31
Charles Zink '23, San Francisco
A. Zoond '24, London, England

HISTORY OF THE PLAYERS' CLUB

(Continued from Front Page)

Mr. Wood, especially, by his personality and untiring efforts, inspired in the members that high morale and club tradition which enabled them to carry on when in 1931 his retirement due to ill health suddenly left them rather in the position of an Italy without a Mussolini.



A professional director took over the coaching duties so long performed voluntarily by Mr. Wood; the late Dr. F. C. Walker became honorary president. Dr. Walker realized that never again would the club find anyone to work for it as Mr. Wood had done, and he encouraged the student executive to take more responsibility, at the same time helping them with his experience and inspiring them with his inimitable personality. Dr. Walker died suddenly last summer: the Players' Club echoes the words written about him by Dr. G. G. Sedgewick—"Not many people can be at once so matter-of-fact and so sensitively thoughtful, so individual in nature and at the same time so strictly loyal to fellowship and duty."

Under Dr. Walker last year the club made an increased effort to put the University in its proper position as a leader towards the best in drama: the ultra-modern staging of "Caesar and Cleopatra" was for the first time built entirely by students under the direction of Tommy Lea.

Professor Thorleif Larsen, the present honorary president, is also enthusiastic for this work of educational leadership, and consequently the club is presenting this year one of the greatest tragedies of all time.

The year has been exceptionally active. A reading group and make-up classes have been formed, a visit of the Cornish School Puppeteers from Seattle was sponsored, the Christmas plays were the greatest success in years, a good first showing was made in the Dominion Drama Festival, and the tour is to be revived.

Altogether, after a difficult period of transition, the Players' Club now looks forward to renewed advance on firmer and broader lines.



BEACON

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