



# The Decree

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N. C. WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

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## Theatre Department Intimately Involved

The Theatre Department is quite active on Wesleyan's campus. With only twelve majors, and a small budget to work with, it manages to produce plays that have earned it an excellent reputation all over North Carolina. Coltrane Theatre presents three major productions a year, several student-directed one-acts and an annual Theatre Workshop for local high school students. This year, the Workshop will be held on May 7, and will feature Mr. Bob Kelly, a well-known New York make-up artist.

In the department, each major becomes intimately involved with all aspects of the theatre profession. Acting principles, as well as costume design, make-up, lighting techniques, publicity, and stage

construction are learned on a first hand basis. Instruction is rather like an apprenticeship program, under the trained supervision of John Tobinski, Director and Chairman of Theatre, and Donald Williams, Production Designer and Technical Director.

This year, the department is sponsoring two scholarships for continuing students. These scholarships will be awarded on a basis of financial need and potential in theatre arts. At Honors Convocation there will be awards for Best Director, Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress; all very reminiscent of the Academy Awards. It is also possible that the department will be approved for a local chapter of Theta

Alpha Phi, a national theatre fraternity.

Coltrane Theatre welcomes new-comers. Auditions are open to all students and faculty and the department depends on the energy and support of all who enjoy the theatre. New faces are encouraged to participate in our productions. Not only are talented actors and actresses desired, but also those students who wish to work behind the scenes, as stage managers, technicians, choreographers and costume coordinators.

Presently the theatre is in production for *Blithe Spirit*, which will open on April 26. Cast and crew are confident that it will be a success, and that all who attend this light comedy will leave in buoyant

spirits. An exception is being made to the normal policy of closed rehearsals, and extended is an invitation welcoming all students to the last dress rehearsal free of charge. This preview will begin at 8:00 p.m. on April 25. There is a house capacity of 110, so seating will be provided on a first-come-

first serve basis. It is hoped that you will take advantage of this opportunity, as it will not only be exciting entertainment for all, but will also allow the cast to prepare for opening night.

Jan Wilson



Charles and his wife Roth enjoy intimate moment. [Jan Wilson photo.]

## Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*

For pure entertainment it is imperative that one see *Blithe Spirit*, a delightful comedy by the British writer and actor, Noel Coward. Set in England in the early 1940s, the play begins when Charles Condomine and his wife Ruth decide to hold a seance in order to obtain material for a book that Charles is writing. Confident that their seance will prove to be no more than entertainment and evidence that mysticism is pure superstition, they invite another married couple, Dr. and Mrs. Bradman, to join in the evening's festivities.

Anticipating an evening of mere frivolity and determined to be skeptical at all costs, they also ask a well-known medium, Madame Arcati, to preside over the seance. Madame Arcati, a devoted believer in the spiritual world, is as serious about her task as the others are

cynical. She succeeds in turning their cynicism to hysteria as he brings back Charles' first wife Elvira, who has been dead for seven years.

From then on, the fun and games never end, as the aristocratic stuffiness of the two couples is pierced, and they find themselves involved in an actual ghost hunt. The Condomine's maid, Edith, an invaluable comic element, scampering and scurrying throughout the play, has a few surprises of her own to add to the plot.

*Blithe Spirit* is charming and irresistible as it pokes fun. Filled with whimsical humor and hilarious antics, it is certain to be "smashing" entertainment for all who attend.

NC Wesleyan Coltrane Theatre's third production of the year will run April 26-30 and May 3-7.

Jan Wilson



EDITH IS PUT UNDER MADAME ARACATIS' HYPNOTIC SPELL. [Jan Wilson photo.]

## Edge Says Team "Her Best"

"This is the best team I've ever had," commented Jean Edge, coach of the girls softball team. "Our record may not show it but it is."

Edge said this after her team had lost their first two double headers of the season. "Errors and poor hitting are the two reasons, we made errors in strategic places in the game," she added.

Edge says her outstanding hitters are: Cathy Lynch, Martha Peel, Eleanor Perry, and Faye Pridgen. She added that Barbara Slater "did a very good job at shortfield for us."

"We have an excellent attitude and skill . . . if we can just get it all together," she said. "I still believe we can have a decent season. The girls are interested and put forth an effort."

The members of this year's team are: Nona Cook, captain, Cindy Alston, Madeline Alston, Kyle Baldwin, Daphne Branch, Denise Castillo, Martha Edwards, Carleen Goodwin, Frances Harrison, Mary Hathaway, Ellen Hessey, Valerie Holland, Cathy Lynch, Martha Peel, Eleanor Perry, Faye Pridgen,

Barbara Slater and Bev Stoner.

The softball team has their two last games this week. On Tuesday they will play St. Augustine at 4 p.m. here and on Thursday they will take on Methodist in Fayetteville.

As for next year, sports in general look good. Edge has five girls already coming next year that will be a good addition to the sports program. She also added that there will be a girls basketball team next year and a coach will be secured.

Greg Allen