

Evolution Drama To Open Tonight

"INHERIT THE WIND". A play by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee. Produced by the Highland Players. Directed by Howard Cobbs. Principal Cast: Melinda Mary Bradley Howard Kirk McDonald Rachel Nancy Coyle Meeker Mac Damron Cates Ken Culwell Rev. Brown Maurice Edwards Sillers Alan Bunn Bannister David Dolge Judge Tom Jones Dunlap Randy Brame Hornbeck Bill Forrest Mayor Jim Pope Brady Jon Graham Drummond Louis Swanson Esterbrook David Bunn

Designed by Arthur McDonald. Costumes by Sue Slaney. Lighting by Ron Wilkerson. Production Assistant: Mac Damron. Design Assistant: Danny Mizell. Make-up: Merri Alexander. Stage Manager: Linda Logan. Playing through Sunday in the new Liberal Arts Auditorium.

It's obviously impossible to have a review of a Thursday night opening in a Thursday afternoon paper. (It's quite hard enough to review a Wednesday night opening for Thursday's paper, since the review has to be written by 8:00 Thursday morning.) So if you haven't already guessed, this is a review of the final dress rehearsal of "Inherit the Wind", which opens tonight.

Dress rehearsal or not, the play ran very well last night, and I was pleasantly surprised by the quantity of actors new to our stage who fill principal roles and fill them well. What with the new stage, which allows McDonald's scenic design to assume an outstandingly professional look, plus an excellent

play by a pair of fine playwrights, plus the largest cast ever assembled for a show here, "Inherit the Wind" has plenty going for it. And the result is most satisfying.

I had my doubts concerning the possibility of producing a really absorbing play based on a legal trial, but these have been dispelled. As is fairly well known, the play is a semi-fictional dramatization of the notorious Scopes trial of 1925, though all the names have been changed and the setting is left unspecified. What have been captured by this production--in addition to the cold history--are the personalities of two lawyers caught in a legal battle of wits, and the spirit and flavor of a whole town totally involved in the courtroom proceedings. The story follows the trial from the first court session until the final verdict three days later, and depicts both the town's in-court and out-of-court activities during those days.

John Scopes, the school teacher whose right to teach evolutionary theory in the public school was the subject of the trial, has become Bertram Cates, played by Ken Culwell. He is a mild-mannered man, who at one point is more willing to switch than fight, but who does fight out his case to the end at the insistence of his defense attorney. The defender is Henry Drummond (drawn from Clarence Darrow), who speaks with as much fire and wit as Thomas More, brought to trial for treason in "Man for All Seasons". Louis Swanson, a newcomer to our stage, is cast as Drummond; he comes on with an intensity that makes his debut one of the best surprises since Mary B. Higgins popped up as Ophelia.



One of the few familiar faces in the show is Jon Graham, who does his strongest job to date with the portrayal of Matthew Harrison Brady, the character based on William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Graham's Brady is a proud but narrow-minded individual whose smirks and stubbornness arouse the anger of the audience both at Brady and at the town that cheers him on. E. K. Hornbeck (after H. L. Mencken), the journalist from the Baltimore Herald, is done with admirable zest by Bill Forrest, though the role is not the finest of the several he has done. Of those in supporting roles, the most outstanding include: Nancy Coyle, opposite Mr. Culwell as a romantic interest; Tom Jones, the dignified but sometimes ignored judge; Maurice Edwards as the local evangelist; Jim Pope as a pompous small-town mayor; and David Dolge and Alan Bunn, humorous as prospective jurors.

If ever a courtroom drama was compelling and with ability to make the audience feel drawn right into the courtroom, this is it. Howard Cobbs has taken what might, with so great a cast, have

become just a clumsy and contrived show, and directed it with life and a conviction that the past is as real as the present. The production is one the Players can be proud of, both for the quality of the visual production (McDonald's set does much to capture the spirit of the place, and Sue Slaney's costumes much to recall the time) and for the fine acting by individuals and crowds. Reserve a seat while there are still some left--for "Inherit the Wind" is a show in which only the very apathetic will find nothing worthwhile.

AIKEN

(Continued from Page 1)

sophy and Art," "Morality and the Language of Conduct," "Philosophy in the Twentieth Century," and "Democracy".

Dr. Aiken served on the faculties on Harvard, University of Michigan, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the University of Washington and was Guggenheim Fellow in Italy and Spain during 1961-62 before his appointment to the Brandeis faculty.

"The Future of Liberalism" was his topic this morning as he addressed the Senior C&C class. He will speak tonight on "Source of Moral Conflict in the Contemporary World." Moral Conflict in the Contemporary World."

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