

TV SPECIAL BY D. WOOD

It started out as an idea to do a weekly television show for children. Children's theatre has always interested me because one's imagination becomes the stage, and an audience of kids will accept anything as long as it is sincere.

I went down to WSJS television station and met with Mr. John Comas. I was surprised to hear that the station had been interested in doing some work with NCSA for a long time. When I told him I wanted to do a weekly show for kids he smiled and said, "fine". Then I heard the clincher. In order to do a weekly show, they usually begin with a SPECIAL.

Now a special is exactly what the name infers...SPECIAL. And when he told me this was a requirement, my mind flew immediately to Christmas. What a great chance to bring a little magic back to that very special time of year. It wasn't even Halloween when I rode my motorscooter down to the station, and plastic Christmas trees were already in the store windows. Yes, Christmas has lost some of its magic, no doubt.

Mr. Comas gave me a Christmas Special, then, and I left the studio with a beaming face. I already knew what my story would be: a search for the meaning of Christmas. It would involve a little boy who sets out to discover what Christmas is. Thus the title: CHRISTMAS IS.

I wanted Robert Davis to play the little boy right off the bat. Robert was the little Negro boy who always turned up on campus to ride my motorscooter, and ask for money. It was set then.

I knew who I wanted to act the other roles, too. I needed a Christmas tree who comes to life. Gary Beach. I needed Rudolph the red nosed reindeer. Stanley Bernstein. I needed Charles Dicken's Scrooge. David Sutor. And I needed an elfish toymaker. Buddy Gordon. Also, I knew I'd need a Santa Claus. Are you ready...President Robert Ward. (Incidentally, when I asked him, he was as excited about it as anyone else.)

In one week we had a script and the music. There are three songs in the show. The whole program lasts thirty minutes, and is video taped in color.

Our television director, supplied by WSJS is Dave Ranson, a great guy with a lot of young ideas.

Then our first heartbreak happened. Robert Davis was killed when an automobile hit him on Waughtown Street. Robert was eight years old.

Several days later I was standing in the pulpit of Mt. Carmel Church delivering his funeral address. It was one of the most meaningful moments in my entire life. What does a person say to capture..to try to capture something of the essence of a human life. And Robert was just a little boy. He didn't even

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"The Gentle Art of Grumbling"

"To be good-natured is to invite neglect, imposition and ill-usage; to be cantankerous is to ensure as much as you are entitled to and a great deal more. In short, discontent is great gain, and the proverb which alleges just the contrary needs revision. If, in addition to being peevish and morose, you have the good fortune to be endowed with a rasping tongue and a strident voice, if you can cultivate a sudden scowl, you are certain to command respect. Don't imagine that contrariness offends. There is true philosophy in what Miss Braddon makes Sir Jasper Denison say, namely, that he prefers the man who declines to admit that black is white to him who politely subscribes to so obvious a taradiddle. . .

"Verily, grumbling is a fine art, and it should be cultivated".

Letter to the Editor

"In Nazi Germany. . .

First they put the Communists and Jehovah's Witnesses in the concentration camps--but I was not a Communist or a Jehovah's Witness, so I did nothing. Then they came for the social democrats--but I was not a social democrat, so I did nothing. Then they arrested the Jews--and again I did nothing, because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Catholics, but I was not a Catholic and did nothing. At last they came and arrested me--but then it was too late already."

Martin Miemoeller

In the last issue of the N.C.Essay we were called upon to show our protest of the war in Vietnam by our artistic efforts. And in some ways this will help. To quote Barry Boys, "No play ever stopped a war." Our protest in artistic matters will be useless unless it is coupled with political and social activism.

If we really want to end this war, along with finding the cures for the rest of this country's problems, we must be ready to work for it. And there is no better place to begin than Winston-Salem, and towns like it. For here are the people who put Nixon in office; and the people who can force him out of the war, now!

After the Thanksgiving break a New Mobilization Committee to END THE WAR IN VIETNAM will begin to organize at NCSA. This group will work toward bringing peace in Vietnam, peacefully! So here is your chance to really work for peace. We all have a week free to think about it, and I hope you all will. The work is there, and so is peace, even if it is hidden now; now they need you, brothers and sisters.

Stephen Bordner

