

Dowling Says Future Of Theatre Lies In Colleges

"The future of the theatre lies in the colleges and universities, because economy is killing the theatre." This was Eddie Dowling's answer to why he'd turned to college lecturing when he was enjoying a successful career acting and directing on Broadway. In this way, he hopes to encourage dramatic interests on the campus and to cultivate interests in acting in the theatre. Any prospective actress must perform in the theatre first for security before going into the mass media.

Because television will win the battle with the theatre (it's free), Mr. Dowling has been trying to encourage colleges and universities to organize nationally and present fine dramas on television. In his plan, Mr. Dowling would have the national networks give each state one ninety minute program a week. The cast for each states' production would be selected on a competitive basis from the schools and citizens of each state. The last four weeks of the cycle could be devoted to national competition. Mr. Dowling commented that there was considerable interest in the project and all that it needs is a sponsor and organization.

As the importance of the "big" theatre decreases, Mr. Dowling feels that interest will revert back to small local groups as was the case in the beginnings of the drama. However, interest in outdoor dramas will not diminish. Mr. Dowling feels they will grow in number and in importance since each state has numerous "stories". These pageants will soon have the attractive force found in the European festivals.

Mr. Dowling was encouraging

about the possibilities for young actresses. All you really need is a tremendous amount of faith in what you believe you can do, despite discouragement, and hard work. He feels that a college education is essential in the theatre, because in college you learn "speec which is the all important thing."

However, the prospect of appreciation of an actor's talents are decreasing. According to him, the country is revolving around salesmanship and money making so it has lost its taste for beauty.

Mr. Dowling played Tom in his Broadway production of *The Glass Menagerie*. He felt he was too old for the role but he and Tennessee Williams decided a mature man with Tom's experiences was essential so that the narration would be the most significant and impressive part of the play. He has a great deal of admiration for these narration scenes and considers them "as fine as anything written in the American theatre." In the original production, Mr. Dowling felt it was necessary to clarify the ending; so, instead of ending the final narration with "and so goodbye," he closed with "and here my memory ends and your imagination begins."

He also pointed out that the character of Amanda was drawn from Williams' mother and that the comments on the Episcopalians were a reflection on Williams' life with his grandfather, an Episcopal minister, who raised him.

Mr. Dowling's lecturing was entertaining, if you wanted a monologue, "This Is Your Life, Eddie Dowling" instead of the scheduled recital, "From Shakespeare to Saroyan."

—Martha Jarvis

Stevens' Time Occupied By Teaching And Homemaking

In the back of the theatre after every *Pierrette* performance, sits the one person responsible for the total effect of the play—the director, Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens. She claims her favorite production is "usually the one I've just completed"; but since she came to Salem in 1948, after getting her masters degree in speech at Northwestern University, she has directed some favorites. "I especially enjoyed working with *The Innocents*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Pygmalion*, when we did it a few years ago."

But directing was not always easy for Mrs. Stevens, who also serves as acting coach for her often inexperienced crew; when she did five years of summer stock work in New London, New Hampshire, acting was her outlet for expression, and not directing. "I directed a comedy about two old maids who took over Washington bureaucracy; it flopped, and I hadn't liked it from the beginning."

Since her marriage to Willis Stevens of the music faculty last June, Mrs. Stevens has discovered that a full-time career such as teaching, is difficult to combine with homemaking.

"Mr. Stevens and I don't have any spare time really; but when we do we usually spend it wishing we had more. When I get a chance

NEWS BRIEFS

This morning at 8:00 five Salemites and Dr. Welch left for Asheville for the North Carolina Education Association convention. The five girls were Mary Ann Boone, Margie Boren, Jane Rostan, Ellie Mitchell, president of the campus chapter, and Martha Jarvis, Salem's Miss Student Teacher of 1958.

Martha will be presented Friday night with all other Miss Student Teachers. The delegation will return Saturday afternoon.

NEWS BRIEFS

Professor John H. Johansen, Head of the Department of Religion, will attend the joint meeting of the Southern Sections of the **National Association of Biblical Instructors** and the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, to be held at Atlanta University, Atlanta, Georgia, on Monday and Tuesday, March 24 and 25.

Professor Johansen will read a paper on the subject "The Parable As An Instrument of Self-Revelation," at the Tuesday morning session of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis.

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