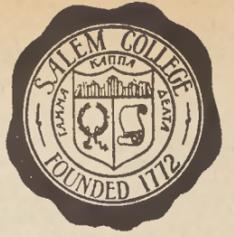




# The Salemite



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Moses (Nan Williams) pleads with members of the Hebrew camp, Miriam (Sue Sample) and Aaron (Peggy Brown). Moses: "You have gone with the dead after all, but you pretend not to see them. When I was a child . . ."

## Pierrettes Give 'The Firstborn' With Williams

By Susan Hughes

On April 6-7 The Pierrette Players are presenting **The Firstborn**, a religious drama by Christopher Fry, and in order to write this article I went to a rehearsal one night this week. I wasn't sure what to expect, but during the three hours I spent in Old Chapel I saw one of the most beautiful plays I have ever seen. Of course, the sets were still unpainted, and the black curtains were tied up in knots, the lighting plots were still not finished, and final polishing of the play was still to be done, but the play itself and the construction of the scenes are very good. The movements of the characters are well-coordinated and often seem like impressionistic dance movements, and their positions on the stage are often like extremely well-constructed paintings. Even without paint, backdrops, costumes or make-up, I found myself carried along with the movement and idea of the play.

Christopher Fry began his play in 1938, but circumstances prevented him from completing it until 1945. In his foreword, he says that the text of the edition the Pierrettes are using is based on a performance which he directed at the London Academy of Dramatic Art, in 1957. It has cuts and alterations which are not in any earlier edition. The story centers around the Hebrews in Egypt in about 1200 B. C. and the efforts of Moses to win their freedom from bondage. Most of the action takes place at the palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt and the camp of the Israelites, and the characters include Seti II who is the Pharaoh and the father of Ramases and Teusret, played by Fran Bell; Anath Bithiah, his sister and the foster mother of Moses, played by Felicity Craig; The protagonist, Moses, portrayed by Nan Williams; Aaron, his brother played by Peggy Brown; Nina Ann Stokes as Ramases, the first born son of Seti, who will one day be the Pharaoh; His sister, Teusret, played by Pat Stallings; Sue Sample as Miriam the sister of Moses; Shendi her son, a hot-headed youth who wants to become an Egyptian officer, played by Crockett Rader; and the two Egyptian overseers played by Toni Lambert and Joy Robinson.

Mr. Fry says that the character of Moses is a movement toward maturity, toward a balancing of life within the mystery, where the conflicts and dilemmas are the trembling of the balance." In the last scene Moses suffers a momentary spiritual death at the moment when the firstborn's physical death creates the Hebrews' freedom; his resurrection from that to become the great leader, though only hinted at as the curtain falls, carries with it something of the life of Ramases. As he once says to Ramases, "I taste your boyhood and remember mine . . ."

Ramases lives a boyhood in the palace almost identical with the one led by Moses when he was still the "Lion Prince of Egypt." The title, at first, may seem to quarrel with most of the action since Moses is the chief protagonist, but after a little acquaintance, the figure of life which Ramases presents will be seen to take the central place from his first entrance to the end.

Some of the people who are involved in helping with the production of the play are Joanne Doremus who is working with lights; Elaine Falls, Sally Beverly, and Mary Oettinger, programs; Marji Jammer, sound; Nina Ann Stokes, properties; Sybrilla Caudle, costumes; Abbie Suddath, assistant director; Ann Saunders, sets; and Vickie Simms, stage manager.

## IRS Plans Fashion Show, Charm Speech, Panel Discussion

The purpose of IRS comes to the fore Monday as Salem students observe annual IRS Week April 4-6. IRS Week is a positive approach toward promoting among students an interest in developing poise, grace, charm and higher personal standards.

Evelyn Vincent, IRS president, stated that "this year's program will deal with both phases—personal and social, plus something extra."

The "Week" begins Monday with the assembly that everyone always looks forward to—Montaldo's Fashion Show! It is under the direction of Miss Carol Crawland. Anna Yelverton is in charge of stage decorations. Mrs. Quinn of Montaldo's will be Mistress of Ceremonies as our own May Court model casual, afternoon, and evening apparel.

Monday night the "personal" side

of the "Week" will be continued at 6:30 in the Day Student Center when Miss Kay Turner of The Kay Turner Charm-Modeling School will speak. "It is my conviction," says Miss Turner, "that true beauty lies in the heart of every woman, and that it is her duty to develop fully that beauty."

Miss Turner received her education at Meredith College, the University of North Carolina, and the University of Cincinnati. She has had training in violin, piano, and voice. She did commercials and announcing on T. V. as well as modeling and acting in New York. Monday night she will speak on the development of feminine charm. Lynn Robertson is in charge of the program.

Tuesday night comes that "something extra" that Evelyn talked about. At 6:45 we have another

opportunity to go "Beyond the Square" with Dr. Byers! The occasion is a panel on perhaps the most pertinent question facing us as young voters—"Why Vote In A Democratic South?" What's the use of voting at all if you already know how your state will go? Susan Foard will moderate the panel composed of Dr. David Smiley, Mrs. T. C. Karnes, and Dr. Inzer Byers—three persons quite capable of answering these questions. Dr. Smiley, professor of history at Wake Forest, is an expert in the area of Southern history. He has written several books, and is a popular feature writer and speaker all over the state. From Salem's campus comes Mrs. Karnes, instructor in Education and an active member of the League of Women Voters, and Dr. Byers, professor of history.

The final event takes place Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 to 4:30 in Strong Friendship Rooms where IRS sponsors its Student-Faculty Spring Coffee. Its a perfect opportunity to talk with your favorite professor out of class! Evelyn said, "We want to use our new china again! The set that we bought in the fall! So everybody come."

"The "Week" will only last through Wednesday this year," Mary Anne Floyd stated, "due to the play, on Thursday and Friday." Mary Anne is overall chairman of the week. It was given to her as her "project" at the beginning of the year. She and Evelyn both hope that all Salemites will take advantage of the opportunities offered. "And in addition to the planned programs, we will constantly remind students of our purpose during the week," said Evelyn.