

Summer Apprentice Recalls World-renowned Festival

By Jane Dittmann

SPOLETO FESTIVAL U.S.A. 1977

"All the arts can be identified as arising from a common yearning of the human spirit for a better world of forgetfulness and dreams."

-Camus

For twelve days Charleston, S.C. became the cultural center of the world. The rather provincial Southern city, often likened to a European town, achieved this distinction by hosting the American offshoot of the internationally famed "Festival of Two Worlds" otherwise known as "Spoleto." The twenty year old festival, founded by composer Gian Carlo Menotti, is probably the most comprehensive performing arts event in the world. Usually held in Spoleto, Italy, the American version was a first, preceded by a two year search for the ideal American city for this festival of the arts. Spoleto commonly includes operas, plays, chamber music, dance programs, recitals, ballets, jazz concerts, art exhibits and a host of other events.

Believing that "youth is one of the great glories of America," Menotti planned Spoleto to provide an opportunity for the young performer to gain recognition, as well as for the established artists to perform. Menotti's desire to include young people in Spoleto extended beyond the realms of performing and observing. The Youth Apprenticeship Program invited students 18-21 to share their imagination and talents with Spoleto U.S.A. Opportunities to learn and assist in backstage activities, public relations, press, artist relations, art exhibits and mini-festivals attracted 30 young people, of varying backgrounds, from diverse geographic locations to Charleston.

My Spoleto experience is drawn from an apprenticeship in "art exhibits." Responsibilities in the field of art included designing and hanging exhibits,

preparing exhibit descriptions, and assisting with the importation arrangements for Italian artworks. In retrospect, I did much more than the few activities which were initially designated, and because I was able to overstep one area into many aspects of the festival, my experience was greatly enriched. It was not uncommon for an apprentice such as myself, to complete particular duties, and dash between assigned responsibilities to a chamber music concert, a film or a mini-festival. On especially hectic days apprentices were asked to leave their area of specialization to assist in an aspect of the festival which may have been previously unfamiliar to them. On such a day I was requested to help in the Press Room, a usually crowded cubical with several incessantly ringing phones. The apprentices found strength in unity, for few other Spoleto participants could share our common condition. Housing was provided, pay was minimal, but artistic involvement was constant. Rehearsals and performances were gratis for performers and apprentices, and all partook of this privilege.

Although the Festival had its diasters, the quality of artistic endeavor neared or achieved perfection. The operas, "The Consul" and "The Queen of Spades" were technical marvels, and were characterized by a professionalism in craft that was no less than awe-inspiring. The ballet was similarly breathtaking—prima ballerinas leaped and pranced across stages causing audiences to gasp in

sheer amazement at their skill. The major dramatic offering of the festival—Simon Gray's most recent play, *Molly*, was no less than a world premier. And, though its reviews, ranged from "a dud" to "flawless," one could always boast of having attended a world premier.

I could write hours of entrancement at a chamber music concert, freewheeling enjoyment at an ethnic mini-festival or slight bemusement at an avant-garde film festival, for Spoleto was all of these things. The world of a Spoleto apprentice was "forgetfulness and dreams", for one's life simply became inundated with the arts. It was exciting to be in Charleston during Spoleto. Critics concerns that Charleston would not get in the "festival spirit" were soon diminished as natives and festival participants caught "festival fever" and a sense of enthusiasm pervaded the city.

The festival finale was an orchestral concert and fireworks display held at a local plantation. That night my head turned upwards as green, red, and gold sparkles shot through the sky. I could not resist the comparison between the bright fireworks that lit up the sky and the festival, Spoleto, that illuminated a city.

Fellowships

Cont'd. from two curriculum in the United States. Approximately 60-65 Fellowships will be awarded to college seniors who are nominated by campus Liaison Officers. Another 35-40 awards will be made to post-baccalaureate persons who apply directly to the Foundation.

The Danforth Graduate Fellowship is a one-year award but is normally renewable until completion of the advanced degree or for a maximum of four years of graduate study. Fellowship stipends are based on individual need, but they will not exceed \$2,500 for single Fellows,

The Panama Canal: Past Treaties Reviewed

By Sandra Spear

First of a Series

A major issue before the U.S. Senate this term will be the ratification of the new treaty with Panama on the Panama Canal Zone. Two major public figures with rather sizeable followings who have expressed support for the treaty are George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, and former President Gerald Ford. The opposition to ratification is led by Ronald Reagan. For the next few weeks this column will be devoted to examining this issue.

The first question that one might ask about the new treaty is why do we need one? What does the old treaty say? The treaty under which the Panama Canal operates today is the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, signed in 1903, but the history of the Canal goes back as far as 1850. In that year, the U.S. and Great Britain signed the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, the terms of which prohibited either nation from ever obtaining or exercising exclusive control over a ship canal through any isthmus in Central America, or from ever colonizing, occupying or exercising dominion over any part of Central America. They also pledged to guarantee the neutrality and security of a future canal.

Then, in 1901, the second Hay-Pauncefote Treaty abrogated the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty and gave the United States control over the forthcoming canal. A memorandum from Britain allowed the U.S. to fortify the canal. After the Congress decided on Panama as the location of the canal, the Hay-Herran Convention was negotiated with Colombia, who controlled Panama at that time. The convention provided that the U.S. would receive a 99 year lease on an area 6 miles wide at the isthmus of Panama, for which the U.S. was to pay Colombia \$10 million and an annual rental of \$250,000. The Colombian Senate rejected the convention.

On Nov. 3, 1903, revolutionaries in Panama rose in revolt and declared the independence of Panama. U.S. troops effectively stopped Colombian attempts to quell the revolution and the U.S. recognized the Republic of Panama on Nov. 6. Then, 15 days after the revolution, Panama and the U.S. concluded the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty. Under the terms of the treaty, the U.S. received full sovereignty over a 10-mile wide area surrounding the isthmus of Panama for perpetuity in exchange for \$10 million and an annual fee of \$250,000 beginning 9 years after the exchange of ratifications. The U.S. Senate ratified the treaty on Feb. 23, 1904.

Next week, I will discuss the events leading up to the present and outline the provisions of the proposed treaty.

and for married Fellows with no children. Fellows who are married, or are "head of household", with one child, can receive up to \$3,500. There are dependency allowances for additional children. The Fellowship also covers required tuition and fees.

Salem may have two applicants to the program. Interested students should contact Dr. Gossett in room 110 Main Hall by Sept. 28.

Interdorm

Cont'd. from one

K.K.: "The attitude of the students is a partial reason for the lack of interest but that cannot be taken as the only reason."

A.P.: "There were many different reasons for not petitioning. There exists some dissatisfaction with Interdorm and there has been in the past and that might have been an indication."

The duties of Interdorm Chairman as stated in the Handbook are: to preside at all meetings of Interdorm Council; to call any meetings she may consider necessary; to serve on Executive Board; to serve as ex officio member of Legislative Board; and to serve as an ex officio member of Honor Council. As it now stands, there is no one to fill this position permanently, but that does not mean the Chairman's jobs are not being executed. Betty Shull is temporary Chairman of Interdorm and she is responsible that no issues or responsibilities are neglected. Until such time as Legislative Board can come up with a working alternative to the vacant chair, the fate of Interdorm is open to question and open particularly to suggestions which Exec. Board would be more than happy to hear.

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