VEMBER 21, 1943

THE SUNDAY STAR-NEWS, WILMINGTON, N. C.

FIFTEEN

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AR OFF AND N	□ Stage Carpentry □ Stage Lighting and Wiring	COURSES IN Diction Acting Stagecraft Costume and Make-up Playwriting

Castings Now Complete For "Accent On Youth"

Castings are now complete and old character actor, is to be play-rehearsals underway for the Thal-ians' first production of the 1943-44 Preston takes the part of Flogdell, season, "Accent on Youth," a com-edy by Samson Raphaelson. How-ran is cast as "Chuck," an athand P. Ganstier, will direct the letic friend of Dickey's.

play which was a sucessful Broad- Brought to Wilmington in 1938 as way production in 1934, starring a member of the Federal Theater Herbert Marshall and Sylvia Syd- Froject's program to encourage the art of little theaters, Mr. Ganstier

"Accent on Youth" is the story was director of the Thalians' acof playwright Steven Gaye, 50-odd, twities for four seasons, producwho departs from comedies which have made him famous, to write a tragedy about an old man who ice," "Children of the Moon," "The loves a young girl. With his play Late Christopher Bean," and "Penbarely completed. Gaye becomes ny Wise." himself the real-life counterpart of Besides "Accent on Youth." the

the old man in his play, when he Thalians plan to produce at least falls in love with his 26-year-old four more major plays during the secretary. coming season, together with sev-

Playwright Gaye will be portray-eral workshop plays. The four ad-ed by Howard P. Ganstier, while ditional major plays will probably Mary Pray Coniin takes the role be chosen from the following list. of Linda Brown, the secretary. now under consideration by the Youthful actor Dickie Reynolds will Board of Directors: "Claudia. be played by Guerard Simkins. "Watch On the Rhine," "Life With Juanita English has been cast as Father." "Arsenic and Old Lace." actress Genevieve Lang, and Lelia "Cur Town," "Family Portrait, Ellis Corbin as Miss Darling, an-other actress. Frank Galloway, an and "The Women."

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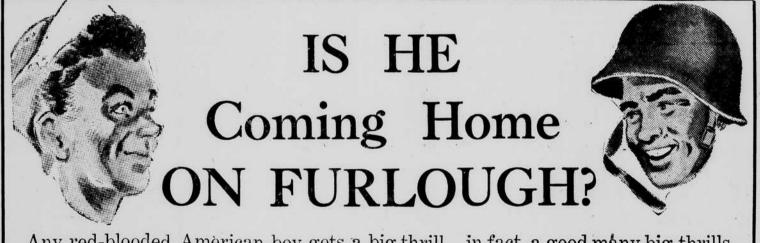
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NS BEGAN WORKSHOP GIVES **GROUP GUIDANCE** HERE IN 1788

World War II has brought no chael P. Walker, the Workshop di-By MARTHA JOHNSON KAPLAN final curtain for the Thalians, Wil- vision of the Thalian Association mington's historic Little Theater is providing instruction, guidance group; rather, it has resulted in and encouragement to anyone in redoubled efforts to provide relax- terested in any phase of play proation and inspiration to a people duction. weary of the grim realism of the times.

It is the purpose of this organization to teach to beginners the Few organizations can trace fundamentals of stage craft and their history in the misty past little theater work, with no mone-

quite so accurately as can the tary obligation on the part of those Thalians. In 1788, a small group receiving the instruction. Direction of Wilmington men organized an is given, not only in acting, but amateur dramatic club called "The in stage conduct, play revision, Thalian Association," now recog-lighting, make-up, and the technilighting, make-up, and the techni nized as the oldest Little Theater cal aspects of back-stage work. group in America. It was in Wil-This auxiliary Thalian group works mington, too, that Thomas Godfrey largely with one-act plays. readwrote the first American tragedy, ings, and short poems. A nother 'Prince of Parthia.' function of the workshop theater

Among the early Thalian actors is to provide a sort of talent pool were judges, doctors, army offifrom which the Thalian Association cers, a bank president, a governmay draw for their major producor, and a man who later be- tions.

came a bishop. They produced. Although he has been an active among other things, "The School member of the Thalian Association For Scandal," "Hamlet," "She for several years, this is Mr. Wal Stoops to Conquer," and "Richard ker's first year as head of the III." It was customary in those Workshop Theater. Sgt. B. R. Partimes, for male actors to assume ker. Harvard graduate, and prothe roles of female characters in fessional movie director, is plays, and the Wilmington theater charge of classes and actual diagain pioneered in 1830, when it rection of the workshop plays. introduced women actresses on its

Instruction in stage mechanics stage. will be given by members of the Professional as well as amateur Wilmington Stage Mechanics and performances were given in Thal- Motion Picture Operators Organilan Hall, with Joseph Jefferson zation, and lectures will be commanaging a stock company which bined with actual experience with clayed there for two seasons. stage equipment.

Among the great figures of the Meetings of the workshop on stage who appeared here were Tuesday and Thursday nights at Janashek, the Polish actress, Sa- St. James Parish Hall are open vini, the great Italian actor, Rich- to everyone.

ard Mansfield, Mary Anderson, and

in later years, Maude Adams, Naz- ton, and Emma Bellamy William mova and Robert Mantell. son. A reviewer whimsically call-For two years, the Thalians ing himself "A Minor Character. worked under the direction of John reports that "a noble and perse F. Sollers of Baltimore, producing, vering group of amateur artists among other things, O'Neill's "In the Zone," "Cock Robin," and Sutstruggled with the double edged ton Vane's "Outward Bound." In Wilde's 'The Importance of Being and difficult incantations of Oscar 1931, Miss Hazel Skirven of Bal- Earnest' until it evolved into a timore, directed "Poor Dear Moth- polished production."

er," a comedy by Stewart Gib-To open the 1933-34 season, the Many of the Thalians' plays Thalians presented a play. "Love son. for the next few years were di- Is Not All' written by Jessie Rehrected by the members them-der, Wilmington's own playwright. selves; taking a hand in the di- This same year, the association recting were Mrs. Herbert Blue- took a play of Essex Dane's "When thenthal, Mary Louise Hoffman, the Whirlwind Blows" to the an Mrs. B. M. Washburn, Louise Dick, Mrs. Hugh McRae Ann Mil- (Continued on Page Seventeen)