



Joy Davis developed a love of drama at an early age and got the opportunity to display her acting abilities during a local performance of "The Pajama Game" (photo by James Parker).

# Actress Joy Davis and drama: An inseparable pair

By CHERYL WILLIAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Joy Davis, a junior at Bishop McGuinness Memorial High School, fell in love with drama at an early age, and ever since then the two have been inseparable.

"I was always so impressed by the theater," Ms. Davis said in a recent interview.

"I have been going to the Little Theatre (of Winston-Salem) productions ever since I can remember," Ms. Davis, the daughter of Mary and Harding Davis of 2824 Shorefair Drive, continued. "But the play that really got me started was 'Annie, Get Your Gun.' Even today, I can still remember every note in the show."

And ever since she saw that play, Ms. Davis has spent most of her 16 years in the theater. But now, Ms. Davis not only watches Little

Theatre productions, she had a role in the latest one, "The Pajama Game."

The play is about a group of workers in a garment factory who want a 7½-cent raise, she said.

The play was a Broadway hit in 1954. It is an adaptation of the book "7½ Cents."

"The songs make the play," Ms. Davis said. "With 'The Pajama Game' there are over 11 songs in the first act alone."

Ms. Davis described her role in the play as a "chorus part." The chorus, however, is constantly on stage, so Ms. Davis was seen often, singing and dancing.

"'Pajama Game' has got a lot of good choreography," she said. "The director is good. The play moves and has a fast pace. There is always the maximum number of people on stage."

Jerry Hatmaker directed the play.

Wearing a costume reminiscent of the 1950s -- a white blouse, black pleated skirt, white bobby socks and a kerchief tied around her neck -- Ms. Davis swung around the stage during the scenes in the factory.

During another scene the costume changed to formal wear for some cheek-to-cheek dancing.

Ms. Davis said that during the time when auditions were going on for the play, she had attended to support some friends who were there.

"I didn't plan to get in," she said. "I went to support my friends and ended up auditioning. I had no idea I was going to be called back."

Ms. Davis said that she has gotten most of her experience from performing in productions at Mount Tabor High

School. The school offers a summer enrichment program.

She said that she has been attending drama classes there since the sixth grade. Although she has been in many productions at Mount Tabor, the play was her Little Theatre debut.

Ms. Davis is not lacking in the talent department, having taken a variety of lessons, lessons which she said have made her a well-rounded person.

Ms. Davis takes acting, dance, piano and voice lessons. She also took violin lessons for about four years.

Ms. Davis said that she probably got most of the roles in the plays she has been in because of her dancing abilities.

Although she is very interested in drama, she has no plans to make acting her career.

"Acting is something for people who feel that it is their calling," she said. "I enjoy the aesthetics as much as anyone else, but I don't think I would want to do it."

Ms. Davis wants to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and major in psychology, but for now she plans to concentrate on finishing high school.

Ms. Davis is also very much involved in several activities at school.

She is a member of and choreographer for the school's drill team. She is a member of the school's chorus, the Drama Club and the Spanish Club, and she is also one of the editors of the school's yearly poetry publication.

She said that there were no problems between her performing in the show and her schoolwork. She said that she Please see page A10

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