

Ninth Season For Summer Theatre Opens July 9 With Allen Comedy

Woody Allen's side-splitting comedy "Don't Drink the Water," starring Sam Levene, opens the Charlotte Summer Theatre's ninth consecutive season at Ovens Auditorium on Tuesday, July 9. In an exclusive engagement in the Carolinas, Broadway's recent record-breaking hit brings the veteran actor to Charlotte for the first time in his 40 years in the theatre.

The New York-born star, who gained fame for creating the definitive Nathan Detroit in Damon Runyon's "Guys and Dolls" both in New York and in London, has appeared in over 50 movies, including "Act One," "The Purple Heart" and "The Mad Miss Manton." He took over for Alan King in "The Impossible Years" and then did the national tour. Previously he starred on Broadway in "Nathan Weinstein, Mystic, Connecticut," Saul Bellow's first play "The Last Analysis," George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber's "Dinner at Eight," "Seidman & Son" with George Gobel in "Let it Ride," Shaw's "Heartbreak House" and Elmer Rice's "Street Scene" among many others.

Following Mr. Levene in the spotlight the week of July 16 will be Jane Kean, best known as Trixie Norton, Jackie Gleason's neighbor and fellow perennial honey-mooner. As Ensign Nellie Forbush in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific," she will sing the memorable "Cock-eyed Optimist," in Love with a Wonderful Guy, and "I'm Gonna Wash that Man Right Outa My Hair." Miss Kean has appeared in such Broadway shows as "Call Me Mister," "Ankles Aweigh," "Carnival" and "Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter" and has done nightclub engagements at numerous international night-spots, including London's Palladium, Las Vegas' Sands Hotel and New York's Copacabana.

July 23 marks the opening of Pat O'Brien in the Edna Ferber-based classic "Showboat." With music by Jerome Kern and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, II, "Showboat" features such hits as "Ol' Man River," "Can't Help Loving Dat Man" and "Bill." Mr. O'Brien, who will enact the pivotal role of Captain Andy, has had a theatrical career that boasts starring roles in "The Fighting 69th" with James Cagney, "The root Page," "The Boy with Green Hair," "The Last Hurrah," the title role in "Knut Rockne" and countless others. No foreigner to the stage, Mr. O'Brien lists "father of the Bride," "Our Town," "Time Out for Ginger" and another production of "Showboat" among his credits.

Rounding out the first half of the Charlotte Summer Theatre's season will be Bill Hayes returning here to play the lead in "Pajama Game." The handsome baritone, who has previously been seen at CST in "Oklahoma" and "Carousel," made his professional debut in 1949 in the national company of "Carousel." Broadway first saw Mr. Hayes in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Me and Juliet" and from there his career sky-rocketed. In addition to major television shows—both dramatic and musical—Mr. Hayes has done symphony concerts, radio shows, opera, vaudeville, nightclub and film work. His recording of "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" sold two million copies.

Presented by Stanley Warren, the Charlotte Summer Theatre begins July 9 and runs through September 1. The first show of the season, "Don't Drink the Water," will play a special Sunday evening performance on July 14 at 7:30 p.m. Otherwise, each show plays Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m. with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets for "Don't Drink the Water," "South Pacific," "Showboat" and "Pajama Game" as well as for the entire season may be purchased at air-conditioned Ovens Auditorium box office. Pre-season subscription sales afford theatre-goers both choice seats and substantial savings.

McGinnis Reports To Lowry AFB

SAN ANTONIO—Airman Jacob T. McGinnis III, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. McGinnis Jr. of 202 S. Sims St., Kings Mountain, has completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex.

He has been assigned to the Air Force Technical Training Center at Lowry AFB, Colo., for specialized schooling as a missile electronics specialist.

Airman McGinnis, a 1965 graduate of Kings Mountain High School, received an A.A.S. degree in 1967 from Gaston Technical Institute, Gastonia, N. C. He is married to the former Patricia Strickland of Kings Mountain.

Most heart patients can travel safely by plane, and to high-altitude areas, says the North Carolina Heart Association. It is advisable, however, to check first with the family doctor.

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