

Historical Pageant Delights Audience

Production Is Fitting Culmination of Work of Faculty Women

Drama, Art and Music Sections Co-operate In Presenting Artistic Performance

The Historical Pageant of the University which was presented by the Faculty Women's Club Monday evening in Lydia Mendelssohn Theater was not only a fitting culmination of the 10 years during which that group has fulfilled an important function in the life of the University, but was also a significant artistic contribution to the culture of the community, which centering as it does about the University, saw itself reflected in the various epochs from 1875 until 3000 A. D.

Monday evening's production, which was ably directed by Mrs. O. Stanley Duffendack, was in no sense amateurish – unless one means by the term the sincere creative activity of non-professionals. The idea, which was conceived by Mrs. Everett S. Brown, program chairman of the club, was developed with the co-operation of the drama, art and music sections. Accuracy in the detail of the excellent settings and exquisite costumes combined with originality in presentation and dialogue to make the pageant not only pleasing to the eye, but delightfully entertaining as well, so that neither faithfulness in historical fact nor audience-appeal were sacrificed. Each was made a necessary complement of the other, and a nice balance was maintained throughout.

Prologue I and Act I

The curtain rose on Prologue 1, written by Mrs. Duffendack and representing a campus scene in 1875. The cast of characters included Dr. William S. James, Prof. Arthur D. Moore, Prof. Duffendack, Mrs. George A. Lindsay, Mrs. Francis E. Ross, Mrs. Lowell Car, Mrs. Wassily Besekirsky, Mrs. Marvin L. Niehuss and Mrs. William S. James.

Here Dr. James as the janitor, called the students to chapel with the bell, which, in 1875, was borrowed for the purpose from the Michigan Central Railroad. As each passed through the gate the audience was given a delightful cross section of University types during that period.

Act 1, written by Mrs. Duffendack and Mrs. Harry Bouchard, took place at the end of the spring vacation in 1875 in a student living room. The characters included Mrs. William F. Bender, Mrs. Ernest F. Barker, Mrs. Bouchard, Mrs. Ralph H. Upson, Mrs. Lawrence C. Maugh, Mrs. R. K. Brown, Dr. James, Prof. Moore, Harry N. Cole and Prof. Duffendack. Mrs. Barker, as Harriet Holman (now Mrs. George Bishop of Geddes Road) wore a costume worn originally by Mrs. Bishop in college, while the quaint room was furnished in the same manner as was Mrs. Bishop's student living room in college.

The amusing episode of the serenade by the men students increased the interest in this scene, which reached its climax when Mrs. Upson, as Alice Freeman, predicted the future of the women on the University campus, and a slide of the Michigan League building was flashed on a screen to show her dream come true.

The committee included property and stage, Mrs. Frank Mickle; costumes, Mrs. W. W. Sleator; transportation, Mrs. T. J. Mitchell and typewriting, Mrs. E. A. Stalker.

Prologue 2 and Act II

Mrs. William H. Sellew was the author of Prologue 2, which took place in the "bold eighties" on a street bordering campus. Here gossip regarding the terrible younger generation, the flurry caused by the appearance of a bicycle rider, and the amusing dialogue between the learned professor who "took notice," as portrayed by Prof. Moore, and the fluttery and shy, but "not so dumb" coed, as interpreted by Miss Mary Louise Worley, were the highlights which most delighted the audience.

Other characters include Mrs. Frederick C. O'Dell, Mrs. Richard H. Kingery, Benjamin Webb Wheeler, Wilfred B. Shaw, Mrs. Carl J. Coe, Herbert G. Watkins and Allan Ehlers.

A burst of applause greeted the setting, which was revealed when the curtain rose on Act II, which was written by Mrs. John R. Effinger and Mrs. Shirley W. Smith and produced and directed by Mrs. Sellew. The scene, an afternoon reception at the home of President James B. Angell during the gay nineties, almost defies description, so lovely it was in every detail of furnishings and costumes. According to the program, many of the stage properties were articles originally in the Angell home.

Most interesting, too, was the contrast. In the various environments and the revelation of the local customs as reflected in the conversation of Mrs. Albert J. Rousseau as Mrs. Michigan, Mrs. George M. Ehlers as Mrs. Eastern, Mrs. Fielding H. Yost as Mrs. Southern, Mrs. Laura Littlefield as Mrs. Northern and Mrs. Walter F. Hunt as the tempestuous Mrs. Mid-Western. Prof. Herbert A. Kenyon, as Sam Baylis, the old Negro servant, added to the reality of the presentation.

Others who took part in this act were Mrs. Fred S. Dunham, Mrs. Dwight L. Dumond, Mrs. Ferdinand N. Menefee, Mrs. Paul Welch, Mrs. Charles A. Sink and Mrs. Lewis E. Wehmeyer. The committee included: Stage properties, Mrs. Hugh Keeler and Mrs. Walter F. Hunt; costumes, Mrs. Albert E. White and Mrs. Sellew; make-up, Mrs. Louis Eich and transportation, Mrs. Walter Badger.

The costume of Mrs. Michigan was that worn by a bride for her first dinner party at the Angell home in 1890, while the special costumes and properties for Act II were loaned by Mrs. Henry C. Adams, Mrs. Frederick C. O'Dell, Mrs. Walter F. Hunt, Mrs. Joseph A. Bursley, Miss Louise Douglas, Mrs. Horace L. Wilgus, Mrs. R. Barry Bigelow, Mrs. Eugene Clarkson, Mrs. Effinger and Mrs. Alexander G. Ruthven. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Earle W. Dow assisted in the arrangement of the scene.

Prologue 3 and Act III

Prologue e, written by Mrs. Hobart H. Willard, depicted three sets of lovers during the period 1910 to 1930. It was a thoroughly delightful interlude between the old fashioned atmosphere of the previous episode and the futuristic setting of the act which followed, and a difference in fashions and vocabulary were the only signs distinguishing the lovers in the three decades all of whom plighted their troth on the

same bench near an old tree. The characters included Prof. Avarad Fairbanks and Mrs. Lewis Holland, Prof Willard C. Olson and Mrs. Howard Ellis and Prof. James Gault and Mrs. Arlen Hillworth.

Stunning in its modernistic contrasts of chromium and onyx was the scene in 3000 A. D. which took place in the study of Professor Historia, where three-minute trips to other planets, synthetic food in capsules and scientific tests for marriage were taken as a matter of course, and the probable use of an automobile horn, and a golf club were subjects of erudite speculation.

Mrs. Hobart H. Willard and Mrs. Arthur W. Bromage were the authors of this final act, while the committee included: Properties, Mrs. James Gault; costumes, Mrs. Walter V. Marshall; stage manager, Mrs. Carl Guthe; transportation, Mrs. Newton Bement and manuscript, Miss Nina Preston and Mrs. John Abernethy.

Mrs. Everett S. Brown and Mrs. DeWitt H. Parker of the art section designed both the stage setting and the costumes for this episode. The background was formed of two black velvet panels flanking a center white panel, against which was silhouetted silver steps leading back to a platform on which was placed a silver globe. Screens formed of three panels designed in silver and black modernistic motifs were placed on either side of the entrance, while silver globes and a black bowl filled with silver fruit centered the skyscraper end table.

The striking costumes were white satin blouses distinguished by gracefully long black velvet trains and worn with black velvet shorts and black sandals laced to the knees in white ribbon. The Butler, or B. and G, as he was called wore a suit of black with an apron, a shef-like hat and deep cuffs of white oilcloth.

The cast of characters include: Mrs. Avarad Fairbanks, Mrs. Leonard L. Watkins, Mrs. Bromage, Mrs. John C. Brier, Mrs. J. Kenneth Doherty, Miss Preston, Mrs. Willard D. Olson and Mrs. Ivan Walton.

As a fitting climax, Father Time portrayed by Prof. Harry N. Cole, followed by Dr. James, the janitor of the first prologue symbolically

ringing the chapel bell, let the procession of characters across the stage to form a most picturesque tableau as the curtain fell.

Other Committees

The sections, and the various episodes for which they were responsible include: Bookshelf and Stage section, Mrs. Duffendack, chairman, Prologue I and Act I; Tuesday Afternoon Drama Section, Mrs. Albert E. White, chairman; Prologue 2 and Act II; the Monday Night Dramatic Section, Mrs. Willard, chairman; Prologue 3 and Act III; the Art section, Mrs. Benjamin F. Bailey, chairman, and properties, Mrs. Burton D. Thuma, and the Music section, Mrs. George Granger Brown, chairman.

The music between each act, which reflected the period of the act following, was arranged by Mrs. Brown, who was assisted by: Instrumental Music, Mrs. Ernst V. Jotter, Mrs. Adam A. Christman, Mrs. Warren R. Good; Vocal Music, Mrs. Arthur W. Smith; instrumental quartet; violins, Mrs. Good, Mrs. Charles B. Emery; violincello, Mrs. Benjamin L. Bailey, and piano, Mrs. Christman; chorus: Director, Mrs. Grace Johnson Konold; accompanist, Mrs. Abram A. James; sopranos, Mrs. Sigmund K. Proctor, Mrs. John Johnstone, Mrs. Samuel A. Graham, Mrs. Arthur W. Smith, Mrs. Raymond Mathews, Mrs. Harry W. Hahn, Miss Odina Olsen, Mrs. Kenneth C. McMurray, Mrs. Howard G. Baker, Mrs. Floyd N. Calhoun; altos, Mrs. Clarence Johnston, Mrs. John C. Bugher, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Sanford Meech and Mrs. James W. Ferguson.

The general committee included program, Mrs. Evans Holbrook; finance, Mrs. Louis W. Keeler; publicity, Mrs. Edwin D. Dickinson; makeup, Mrs. Edgar G. Johnston ushers, chairman, Mrs. Arthur Hackett, and Mrs. Carleton Peirce, Mrs. Harold Gordon, Mrs. Jackson Sharman, Mrs. A. Garrard Macleod, Mrs. Elson Hersey, Mrs. Raymond Bliss and Mrs. Palmer Christian.

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