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As the second production of its
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AFFAIRS OF STATE

A Comedy in Three Acts

By Louis Verneuil

By Special Arrangement with Samuel French

Directed by Kathryn Randolph



PALACE THEATRE
FEBRUARY 12 and 13, 1958
 8:15 P.M.



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Red Mask Players gratefully acknowledges the generous assistance given by the following firms and individuals in the production of AFFAIRS OF STATE:

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Organist is Connie Hoffman, member of Local 90, American Federation of Musicians.


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THE CAST

in order of their appearance:

Philip Russell.....Robert B. Wright
LawrenceRussell Bales
Constance Russell.....Sharon Leisch Smith
George Henderson.....Matt Jurczak
Irene Elliott.....Charlotte Ellis Smith
Byron Winkler.....Paul Kinniry

The Time: In our days.

The Place: In Chevy Chase (10 miles from Washington, D.C.)
Living room in George Henderson's home.

ACT I

Scene 1: Middle of July. Late afternoon.

Scene 2: Ten days later. 3 P.M.

ACT II

Scene 1: Late September. 2:30 P.M.

Scene 2: Early October. 6:30 P.M.

ACT III

Two days later. Afternoon.

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The Story of the Play . . .

From a purely technical standpoint, "Affairs of State" is a work of virtuosity. Once he has established the somewhat preposterous situation of having a school teacher marry an up-and-coming statesman for expedience, Louis Verneuil keeps it in a delicate and delightful balance. On one hand there are an elderly, retired secretary of state, who engineers the alliance to keep his wife from leaving him, and an amorously confused senator. On the other are an errant wife and one in name only. The notion is expanded far more racyly than one might have imagined possible, while the dramatist has probed below his thin plot surface to create engaging characters and pertinent observations on politics and l'amour.

Role Call . . .

CHARLOTTE ELLIS SMITH, whose last Red Mask appearance was in "The Curious Savage," recalls "The Man Who Came to Dinner" as her most memorable little theater experience. Other outstanding plays she participated in were "You Can't Take It with You," "Goodbye, My Fancy" and "Junior Miss." In the last-named, she was a fellow cast member with . . . ROBERT B. WRIGHT, whose first appearance in a Red Mask play was the role of Tallant in "The Late Christopher Bean." But his favorite characterization was that of Mr. Beebe in "The Silver Whistle." He is a past president of Red Mask as is also . . . MATT JURCZAK, who scored in "Detective Story," his most recent stage appearance. Before that, he had leading or important roles in "Dark Victory," "Arsenic and Old Lace," "The Night of January the Sixteenth," "Our Town" and "You Can't Take It with You." These veteran Red Maskers are joined by talented newcomers: SHARON LEISCH SMITH, whose Danville High School Dramatic Club and Senior Class play experience was bolstered by University of Illinois Theater productions, including "Blood Wedding" and "On the Road," plus the title role in a presentation of "Dear Ruth" by the Menominee, Mich., summer theater . . . PAUL KINNIRY, who was in a production crew of a stock company which performed "Affairs of State" and who broke into Red Mask with a fine portrayal of Stosh in this season's opener, "Stalag 17." Paul is a high school, college and little theater veteran of innumerable plays . . . RUSSELL BALES, whose training has been in ballet and voice but whose experience includes "Stalag" (the S.S. captain) and a non-speaking role in a touring production of the Black Hills Passion Play.

RED SPOT PAINTS & WALLPAPER

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DANVILLE, ILLINOIS