

## OPENING NIGHT REPORT

BY PARKER BALLANTINE

A pleasure cruise off Broadway last night to the Kathryn Randolph Theatre in Danville, Ill. Miles off the Great White Way, but the warmth and sparkle of high comedy set up a beacon of its own to guide theatre goers to the Red Mask Fine Arts Center.

Papa Bear Bob Wright, Mama Bear Margo Giacone and Baby Bear Steve Harris and Babyloxes Dorothea Perry and Danny Smith with Adrienne Frye as the maid are center stage in this family situation on a theme by Walter Kerr (*How Not to Write a Play*):

"I sometimes have visions of a gag conference in which that slick character who is traditionally known as Manny bounces in, eyes ablaze, and bubbles over with: 'Listen. This guy's a dramatic critic, see? So his wife writes a play. He's got to review the play. Take it from there.'"

Otto Preminger directed the original Broadway production in Ethel Barrymore Theatre December 14, 1960. The other "skillful and energetic director," Kathryn Randolph, "tore the seven actors apart and punched them back together again" into a play that is "more fun than your first circus" (just to paraphrase a few lines).

For the season it's my "Critic's Choice."

# CRITIC'S CHOICE

8:15 p.m.

Feb. 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 1965

*Red Mask Players, Inc.*

PRESENTS

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**

BY IRA LEVIN

FEBRUARY 19, 20, 25, 26, 27, 1965

8:15 P. M.

DIRECTED BY

*Mrs. Kathryn Randolph*

PRODUCED BY

*Jerry P. Ovall*

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## THE CAST

(In order of Appearance)

Parker Ballantine .....	Bob Wright
Angela Ballantine .....	Margo Giacone
John Ballantine .....	Steve Harris
Dion Kapakos .....	Dan Smith
Essie .....	Adrienne Frye
Charlotte Orr .....	Lucinda Butler
Ivy London.....	Dorothea Perry

## BEHIND THE SCENES....

CASTING .....	Gloria Prentice, Alden Bracewell, Ella Jane Leasure, Jerry Ovall
MEMBERSHIP .....	Russ Pollitt
PUBLICITY .....	Judy Wheeler, Rex Hansen, Ted Harpley, Jerry Ovall
LIGHTING AND SOUND .....	Jim Gill
SET DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION...	Dwight Sherer, Bill Porter, Dan Smith, Ted Harpley, Frank Palmer, Jerry Ovall
STAGE MANAGER .....	Frank Palmer
STAGE FURNISHINGS AND PROPERTIES .....	Mary Cay Laughlin, Joan Walton, Sharon Marxmiller
PROMPTERS .....	Adrienne Frye, Edyth Taylor, Charlotte Carrell
WARDROBE .....	Shirley Hendrickson, Mary Lou Schenck
MAKE-UP.....	Barbara Sido, Mary Lou Schenck, Mary Cay Laughlin
PROGRAM COVER STORY .....	Jim Gill
PROGRAM COVER STORY .....	Jim Gill
PROGRAM PREPARATION .....	Ted Harpley, Jerry Ovall, Rex Hansen
USHERS.....	Red Mask Womens Guild
BOX OFFICE	Lou Lowenstein, Mgr; Helen Jurzak, Ella Jane Leasure, Marilyn Schatz, Martha Phillips

Mrs. Giacone, Mrs. Frye, and Mrs. Perry's hairstyles by Charlotte Carrell.

## BENEATH THE GREASE PAINT ....

**BOB WRIGHT (Parker)** An active Red Masker since 1940, Bob steps in to give veteran talents to the role of Parker Ballantine. Bob has appeared in "The Late Christopher Bean," "Penny Wise," "Junior Miss," "Three's A Family," "The Silver Whistle," "Affairs of State," "Pure as the Driven Show," "Black Chiffon," "The Man in the Dog Suit," and "Inherit the Wind." He is a winner of the "Katy" award for his performance in "Affairs of State."

**MARGO GIACONE (Angela)** Margo last appeared in "Inherit the Wind," She is a familiar Light Opera veteran, having appeared in "Brigadoon," "New Moon," "Naughty Marietta," "Show Boat," and "Carousel." She has also been a valuable behind-the-scenes figure for Red Mask.

**STEVE HARRIS (John)** Steve has appeared in one previous Red Mask play, "Inherit the Wind." At D.H.S., he played in the Dramatic Club Presentation of "Sunrise at Campobello." An up-and-coming Red Masker, we look forward to seeing Steve for many seasons to come.

**DAN SMITH (Dion)** Another talented and versatile performer, Dan has performed on the Red Mask stage in "Diary of Anne Frank," "The Man in the Dog Suit," and in Red Mask's first venture into children's theatre, "The Clown Who Ran Away." Dan's last Red Mask performance was in "The Dark at the Top of the Stairs." Dan is also a performer from the theatre in Marion, Indiana, where he appeared in the "Rainmaker," and in "Kind Sir," which he also directed for the Indiana group. While in Marion, Dan started the theatre group there in the field of children's theatre.

**ADRIENNE FRYE (Essie)** This is Adrienne's first appearance in any stage production. For "Critics Choice," she is working not only on stage, but behind the scenes. We hope that she will be with Red Mask for many more seasons.

**LUCINDA BUTLER (Charlotte)** A Red Masker since 1948 and a true veteran performer, Cindy was last seen in "Girls in 509," for which she won the "Katy" award. Cindy has appeared before the Red Mask footlights in "Arsenic and Old Lace," "You Can't Take It With You," "First Lady," "Shop at Sly Corner," "Silver Whistle," "Detective Story," "The Curious Savage," "The Heiress,"

"The Happiest Millionaire," "See How They Run," "Bus Stop," "The Silver Cord," and the Red Mask TV Play.

**DOROTHEA PERRY (Ivy)** A veteran of seven Red Mask Plays, and an active Red Masker since 1948 after moving to Danville from Boston. Among her many and varied talents — singer, make-up specialist, actress, housewife. Past performances include "Three's a Family," "Life with Father," "First Lady," "Silver Cord," "Fifth Season," "Teahouse of the August Moon," and "Calculated Risk."

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PRODUCER'S PRATTLE.....

*Our thanks to all who devoted so much time and effort; to the Cast; to the Board of Directors; to Ted Harpley, to the Womens Guild; to Kathryn Randolph; to each and every person who helped behind the scenes; and to the many others who helped in staging this performance of "Critics Choice." To all of these by heartfelt thanks and gratitude. "Good Luck Cast!"*

JERRY OVALL

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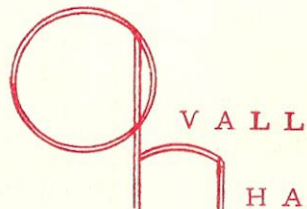
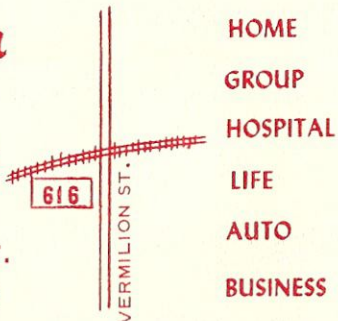


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