

1966-67
RED MASK
SEASON

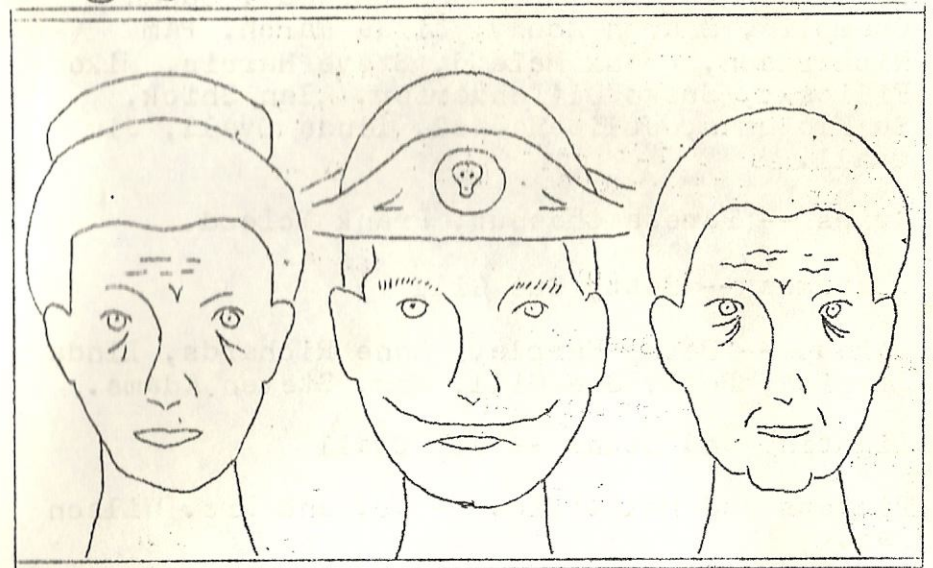
"Never Too Late"

"A Street Car Named Desire"

"Send Me No Flowers"

Season tickets on sale at intermission

RED MASK PLAYERS
PRESENT
SUMMER THEATER



"The Homecoming"

"The Man in the Bowler Hat"

"Granny Davis and Mister Death"

Kathryn Randolph Theater

August 11-12-13, 1966

Festival of Drama-Summer Theater Committee --
Jim Gill, chairman, Betty Sue Kreidler, Ted
Harpley, Margo Giacone, Bill Schatz, Robert
Wright and Lucinda Butler.

Casting Committee -- Jean Henson, Robert
Wright, Alice Morrison.

Director -- Mrs. Kathryn Randolph

Technical Director -- Jerry Ovall

Set Construction -- Teresa Chesnut, Susan
Champlin, Sharon Moody, Linda March, Pam
Richardson, Frank McLeod, Steve Harris, Mike
Filicsky, Susan Diffenderfer, Alan Shick,
Su Kleinman, Julie Haenel, Linda Ovall, Jim
Ovall.

Grips -- Teresa Chesnut, Frank McLeod.

Costumes -- Betty Sue Gill

Makeup -- Betsy Harpley, Anne Richards, Linda
Larrick, Betty Sue Gill, Mrs. Steven Adams.

Lighting and Sound -- Jim Ovall

Tickets and Box Office -- Mr. and Mrs. Wilson
Day.

Program cover art work -- Su Kleinman.

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Prize money in the Festival of Drama one-act
playwriting contest was provided by The
Commercial-News, Hurletron Inc. and Red Mask.

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"The Man in the Bowler Hat" produced by
special arrangement with Samuel French of
New York.



"The Homecoming"
by
Christopher Jones

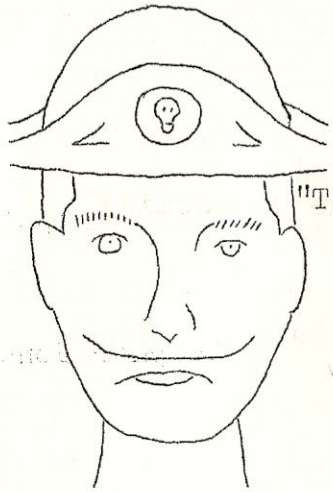
Callie Norma Day
Clara Karen Beard
John Henry Larry Stocker
Ethel Charlotte Markson
Mr. Davidson Bob VanZandt

Assistant Director

Jerry Ovall

Producer

Susan Diffenderfer



"The Man in the Bowler Hat"

by

A. A. Milne

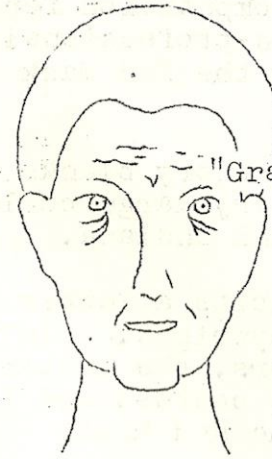
Mary Tammy Spicer
 John Wayne Anders
 Hero Bunk Wright
 Heroine Sherry Bullock
 Chief Villain Dennis Gaudio
 Bad Man Jim Gill
 Man in the Bowler Hat Jerry Ovall

Assistant Director

Joanie Lewis

Producer

Pam Richardson



"Granny Davis and Mister Death"

by

Louis E. Catron

Granny Davis Martha Bailey
 Mister Death Tevis Zillman
 Children's Voices Wilford Bott
 Jolie La Tourelle
 Bruce Pacot
 Cydnie Pacot
 Adult Woman's Voice Mary Ovall
 Gerald Steve Harris
 Young Miss Davis Earlynn Gaudio

Assistant Director

Betsy Harpley

Producer

Mary Ovall

FESTIVAL OF DRAMA

A "Festival of Drama" competition for original one-act plays by non-professional playwrights was announced by the Red Mask Players in December of 1965.

Advertising posters and entry blanks were sent at that time to every large college and university in Illinois and Indiana.

To announce contest results a letter was drafted and sent to each playwright. In addition to naming the winners, the letter explained the purpose of the contest and informed the contestants of the Red Mask Players and its program.

The letter read:

Dear Playwrights:

Judging of plays submitted in the Festival of Drama sponsored by the Red Mask Players, Inc., of Danville has been completed.

Chosen as the best play submitted was "Granny Davis and Mister Death" by Louis E. Catron of Carbondale. Mr. Catron will receive the first award of \$50.

Chosen as the next-best plays submitted were "The Homecoming" by Christopher Jones of Carbondale and "Thanksgiving at Plei Me" by Douglas D. Stewart of Evanston. Each will receive \$25.

The task of picking the three best plays was not an easy one and the competition was stiff.

In viewing the submitted plays as an entity, the judges praised the playwrights'

willingness to experiment. They were pleased to see an awareness of human conditions -- problems and difficulties. Although there were many universal themes, many playwrights tackled themes that were controversial.

A shortage of comedies among the entries was noted as well as a large number of fantasies among the dramas.

Praise was tempered by criticism.

Common to most non-professionally written plays and many professionally written ones was the complaint of obscurity of theme.

"These characters are not human beings," was repeated. Many characters were described as "merely spokesmen."

Some dialogue was variously described as "individual speeches," "a lot of preaching" and "not dialogue at all." However it was stated that the language was well handled.

Red Mask has been pleased by the response to this first Festival of Drama as it relates to the motives for its being.

Red Mask hoped to make a contribution to "theater" to balance the gift of enjoyment "theater" has given to its members through the many seasons of productions.

It hoped through the contest to encourage the writing of original drama for the community theater and to inform playwrights of the specific needs of community theater.

As was expected, many of the entries were from college campuses. While we cannot speak for community theater in general, it

might be valuable to note the differences between the program of the university and experimental theater organizations and the program of the Red Mask Players as a community theater.

In general it can be said that our program is more conventional and more commercial.

The community theater must have the support of the community. In that respect it must be even more careful with its play selection than a professional theater.

Each season of plays first must be commercially acceptable to the paying audience -- an audience of persons of all ages, walks of life and cultural and educational backgrounds.

This necessity to be commercially acceptable is always tempered by a desire to do the very highest level of theater our audience will accept.

As can be expected, physical plants and technical capabilities of community theater varies with the size of the city and the backgrounds of its members. Red Mask is blessed with the ownership of its own theater. The physical plant has its advantages and drawbacks and a certain level of technical ability. Only in isolated details of the submitted plays was the capability exceeded.

Your scripts are herein returned with our thanks and our encouragement of further efforts. While not all plays could be winners, it was noted that without exception each offering showed an individual talent or skill of each playwright.

Sincerely,

FESTIVAL OF DRAMA: FIRST PRIZE WINNER
Louis E. Catron

A native of Springfield, Ill., Louis E. Catron expects to receive his doctorate this month at Southern Illinois University.

Mr. Catron, the son of Mrs. B. L. Catron, is a graduate of Springfield High. He received his bachelors degree from Millikin University and his masters from Southern.

In September, Mr. Catron will assume duties as an assistant professor with the title of "playwright" at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

His full length play, "Lincoln at Springfield: January 1859," will premiere at Springfield Aug. 16, 17 and 18.

Mr. Catron has had six plays produced, all one-act plays. He won first prize this year in the Southern Players Playwriting Contest for a play entitled "Everything's George."

He has directed and/or produced over 35 plays. He was assistant manager at the Millikin-Springfield Summer Theater in 1958 where he also appeared in numerous roles including Cyrano de Bergerac.

Mr. Catron has taught drama and directed theater productions at Lincoln College and Illinois State University.

Mr. Catron is married to the former Betty Lynne Schien of Virden.

FESTIVAL OF DRAMA: SECOND PRIZE WINNER

Christopher Jones

A veteran of more than 200 stage plays and 15 films, Christopher Jones is completing class work this summer at Southern Illinois University for a doctorate in speech.

Mr. Jones is a native of Alabama, the son of Mrs. Emogene Jones and the late Harvie C. Jones.

He has received bachelors degrees from Pasadena, Calif., Playhouse and Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Ala. He received his masters degree from SIU.

This summer Mr. Jones has taught the oral interpretation workshop for the speech department at SIU.

Next month he will assume duties as director of the speech and drama department at Mayville State College in Mayville, N.D.

His stage credits include "Twelfth Night," "The Visit," "Hamlet," "Richard III," "The Imaginary Invalid" and "The Would-be Gentleman."

FESTIVAL OF DRAMA: SECOND PRIZE WINNER

Douglas D. Stewart

An instructor at Northwestern University, Douglas D. Stewart will complete work this month for a masters degree in radio, television and film.

A 3-year Navy veteran, Mr. Stewart received his bachelors degree in humanities from Claremont Men's College, Claremont, Calif.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Stewart of La Jolla, Calif.

Mr. Stewart is the Schubert Playwrighting Fellow at Northwestern University. The fellowship is sponsored by the Schubert Theaters of New York and Chicago.

He has appeared in high school, college and community theater productions as well as a professional Shakesperean repertory group.

Mr. Stewart hopes to write for television or the stage.

He is married. His wife's name is Patricia.

* The art exhibit in the Red Mask Inn *

* provided by the Danville Art League. *

* Exhibitors *

* Mamie E. Rogers *

* Elisabeth Cunningham *

* Mildred Brooks *

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