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BELLPORT, L. I.

BLITHE SPIRIT



John Dicker

NOEL COWARD

July 7th thru July 11th, 1954

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Gateway Theatre

BELLPORT, L. I., NEW YORK



WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE THEATRE? We believe with Arthur Hopkins: "When a thousand people sit before us, appealingly receptive, how are we to enrich them? How often in our lives has theatre-going been an experience for which we will be forever grateful?... Are we to send people away exalted, compassionate, proud of being human beings, or are we to add to their frustration and cynicism? Chain reactions did not begin with the atomic bomb. It began with ideas. The theatre is essentially a place of ideas. What chain reactions do we want to set in motion?

THIS SEASON MARKS a turning-point in the Gateway's ever changing history, with TEN productions rather than five, and a company of 18 instead of 8.

IN THE BEGINNING the Gateway was nothing but an empty barn and a handful of idealistic actors. Six years ago a press notice said, "The Gateway Players, a recently organized group of young actors will make their bow at 8:30 p. m. tomorrow in Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew", to be presented in the new 'theatre-in-the-round'." The following week a review said "If this youthful, enthusiastic company maintains as high a standard with its next production..... Bellport and the surrounding area is in for an enjoyable summer of interesting theatre."

NOW SUCCESSFUL the Gateway Theatre operates a student workshop which enrolls some thirty resident teenagers as well as adults from this area. Courses in all phases of the theatre are given daily in addition to student productions and dance concerts... the actors in the professional companies providing the drama instruction. Gateway is a member of the American National Theatre and Academy, and the American Educational Theatre Association.

THE ENSEMBLE consists of Sally Pomeran who returns to Bellport after a season in Europe. One of Gateway's founders, now general director, Miss Pomeran has had an extensive career in New York and on tour, the most vivid roles being in "Antigone", "Liliom", "Pygmalion", and "Taming of the Shrew". Educated at Principia College and Columbia University, Miss Pomeran studied drama under Frank Parker and then acted with C. W. T. in N. Y. for 3 yrs. and played leading roles at the Putney Theatre in Vermont, She is now leaving her post as head of the Putney School Drama Dept. to lead the Gateway Players in winter repertory.

DAVID SHELDON, also a Gateway founder, returns for his sixth acting and directing season in Bellport. Noted for a variety of char-

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(Continued from page 3)

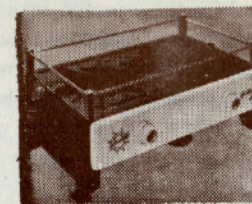
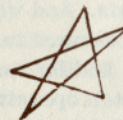
acter roles, Mr. Sheldon played the Gentleman Caller in "Glass Menagerie" and "Imaginary Invalid" last season. Appearances in Illinois, New York and Connecticut include radio acting and experimental TV. Having studied at Principia College and his MFA at Yale Drama School. This season Mr. Sheldon is directing one of his own plays. Mr. Sheldon is now director of Gateway's Student Workshop.

BEVERLY WHITE, directing five of Gateway's ten productions, comes from Arena Stage, Washington, D.C. Formerly director of drama at the Putney School in Vermont, Miss White established the Putney Summer Theatre in 1947 and directed its work for six years. In the summer of 1950 she toured the British Isles with members of her company, representing the U. S. A. in an international festival sponsored by the British Drama League. Miss White has been associated with Weston Playhouse, Rollins Studio and McLean Summer Theatre and has instructed in the theatre departments of Wesleyan Univ. and Sarah Lawrence College.

GEORGE BUTLER, one of Gateway's founders, is back after an absence of two seasons during which he played leading roles with America's only professional Gilbert and Sullivan company in N. Y. Gateway audiences will remember him as Earnest in "The Importance of Being Earnest", which he also directed; his Antrobus in "Skin of Our Teeth", his stage manager in

(Cont'd on Pg. 8)

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... MEET THE CAST AFTER THE SHOW ...

NOEL COWARD

Mr. Coward's variety of talents is only further proof of his enslavement to work. Being actor, composer, playwright, producer - has inspired a sheaf of awed treatises. He is a great wit and his facility of expression has made him the envy of other dramatists. And who else can turn out hit plays within a space of a week? Mr. Coward turned actor at the age of twelve, playwright at twenty-one, and leading man in his own first London production. Also having written operettas, revues, and musical comedies, he has also given us a half a dozen books, short stories, sketches and lyrics, essays and satirical portraits.

To the American theatre alone, Mr. Coward has contributed eleven hits: "The Vortex", "This Year of Grace", "Private Lives", "Tonight at 8:30", "Design for Living", "Hay Fever", "Easy Virtue", "Charlot's Revue", "Fallen Angels", "This Was a Man", "The Marquise", "Bitter Sweet", "Conversation Piece", "Point Valaine", "Set to Music" and "Blithe Spirit". When war was declared in 1942 he left "Present Laughter" and "This Happy Breed" in their dress rehearsal stage to accept a post in the British Naval Intelligence. In 1945 he played in his revue "Sigh No More", and in 1947 Mary Martin and Graham Payn starred for him in "Pacific 1860". His previous hits starred Gertrude Lawrence, Beatrice Lillie, Alred Lunt, Lynn Fontanne, Tallulah Bankhead, and Clifton Webb.

"Blithe Spirit" was produced several years ago on film, featuring Rex Harrison as Charles, and Margaret Rutherford as Madame Arcati.

STAFF FOR THE GATEWAY THEATRE

General Manager.....Sally Pomeran	Public Relations.....Stan Allan
Director of Student	House Manager...Ed J. Varnau
Workshop.....David Sheldon	Instructors:
Business Manager... Harry Pomeran	Beverly White, George Butler
Coordinator..... Ruth Vickers	Mary Perrine, Mary Woolverton,
Dir. of Publicity Don Lombardy	Bill Daprato
Production Tech..... Frank Albright	Stage Mgr..... Herb Appleman

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THE GATEWAY PLAYERS

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MARY PERRINE and MARY WOOLVERTON

in

BLITHE SPIRIT

Directed by
GEORGE BUTLER

Designed by
FRANK ALBRIGHT

Cast In Order of Appearance

Edith.....	Frances Zak	Dr. Bradman.....	Bill Daprato
Ruth.....	Mary Woolverton	Mrs. Bradman....	Marcella Powers
Charles..	Maximilian Sommer	Madame Arcati.....	Mary Perrine
Elvira.....	Evelyn Ryer		

The action of the play passes in the living room
of Charles Condomine's house in Kent, England.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT I Scene 1. Before dinner on a summer evening
Scene 2. After dinner
I N T E R M I S S I O N

ACT II Scene 1. The next morning
Scene 2. Late the following afternoon
Scene 3. Early evening. A few days later
I N T E R M I S S I O N

ACT III Scene 1. After dinner. A few days later.
Scene 2. Several hours later

ABOUT THE PLAY

"Blithe Spirit" is acclaimed as Noel Coward's most successful play. In it he has created an immortal character in the image of Madame Arcati: "It came to me last night, Mr. Condomine. It came to me in a blinding flash. I had just finished my Ovaltine and turned the light out when I suddenly started up in bed with a loud cry--'Great Scott!' I said- I've got it." After that, I began to put two and two together. At three in the morning - with my brain fairly seething - I went to work on my crystal for a little. But it wasn't very satisfactory - cloudy, you know."

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(Continued from page 4)

"Our Town". Mr. Butler has participated in the Shakespearian festival in Dock St. Theatre, N. Y. An accomplished singer and pianist, he comes to Bellport after a season in Europe and a year at the Goodman Theatre in Europe.

RUTH VICKERS has proven her versatility during the past five seasons, her parts ranging from Ruth Gordon in "Years Ago" to Miss Metcalf in "Dark of the Moon". She will be remembered as the Little Prince, Irma in "Madwoman of Chaillot" and "In All My Sons". Making her debut in 1948 as the pert Corliss Archer in "Kiss and Tell" with Lesley Savage's Company, Miss Vickers was welcomed by NY in Monte Meacham's production of "The Indian Captive", participating in a nation-wide theatre conference.

WILLIAM DAPRATO takes leave once again from his TV appearances in NY to participate in the Gateway ensemble. Audiences will remember his vivid characterizations in "All My Sons", "Skin of Our Teeth", "Beautiful People". Having made many appearances on the TV screen in "You Are There", "Studio One", etc. Mr. Daprato has had a broad experience in NY and on the road. Appearing with the Encore Players in New York, Mr. Daprato has done off-Broadway work for a number of years appearing in such plays as "'Of Mice and Men".

(Cont'd on Pg. 9)

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(Continued from page 8)

MARY PERRINE, having starred in "The Madwoman of Chaillot" and "Skin of Our Teeth" before Gateway audiences, returns to create roles as Madame Arcati in "Blithe Spirit". Besides acting in summer stock, Miss Perrine also toured with Ch. World Theatre. She was with a repertory group in California and worked in NY with American Actors' Co. She has made appearances on WJZ-TV WABT and weekly WNBT shows. She directed at the Perry Mansfield school of theatre and at the New Caanan Country School.

FRANK ALBRIGHT - designing Gateway's ten productions has behind him an extensive and varied career. Having had 2 years at Cape May Summer Theatre, and 19 years of experience in education and theatre in New Mexico and Oklahoma, Mr. Albright a member of the Am. Educational Theatre Ass'n., and the Speech Ass'n of America, has designed, staged and directed in such productions as "Our Town", "You Can't Take it With You", "Barretts of Wimpole Street". Having studied at the University of Colorado, and received his MFA from the University of Oklahoma, Mr. Albright played in "Darling Daughter" and "Romeo and Juliet".

EDWARD J. VARNAU - having played in productions of "Ghosts", "Taming of the Shrew", "Hannele", "A Doll's House" "Private Lives", "We Were Dancing", and "Don Juan", was a member of Komisarjevsky's Studio Players. Also with the Theatre Art Colony Players in San Francisco, Mr.

(Cont'd on Pg. 10)

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(Continued from page 9)

Varnau studied at Rennay-Shay-Oak School and graduated from the Cornish School of Drama, Music, Dance and Radio in Seattle, Washington. Gladys McClellan, Melville Landor, and Maurice Dunn contributed greatly to Mr. Varnau's voice and acting training.

MARY WOOLVERTON - born in South Bend, Ind., brings a rich experience of repertory to Bellport. A graduate of the Am. Academy of Dramatic Arts, Miss Woolverton apprenticed and acted in Bolton's Theatre, London, for 2 yrs. Following her repertory appearances in "Born Yesterday", and "As You Like It", among others, Miss Woolverton played with the Hedgerow Theatre in Pa. for 4 yrs., and toured in productions of "Julius Caesar", "The Rivals" and "She Stoops to Conquer" and has played major roles in "Ring Round the Moon", "Cherry Orchard" "Androcles and the Lion" and "Heartbreak House".

NORMA WINSLOW comes to Gateway with 15 leading parts on Broadway and five seasons in London to her credit. Her last five parts were in "The Bat", "Black Chiffon", "The Heiress", "I Remember Mama", "Etched in Granite", "Elizabeth the Queen".

Resident apprentices include Joe Sommer from North Carolina, Jim Holleman from Oklahoma, Herb Appleman from New York, Roberta Hyland from Flushing, L.I., Evelyn Ryer from New York and Albert Woodend from Connecticut.

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