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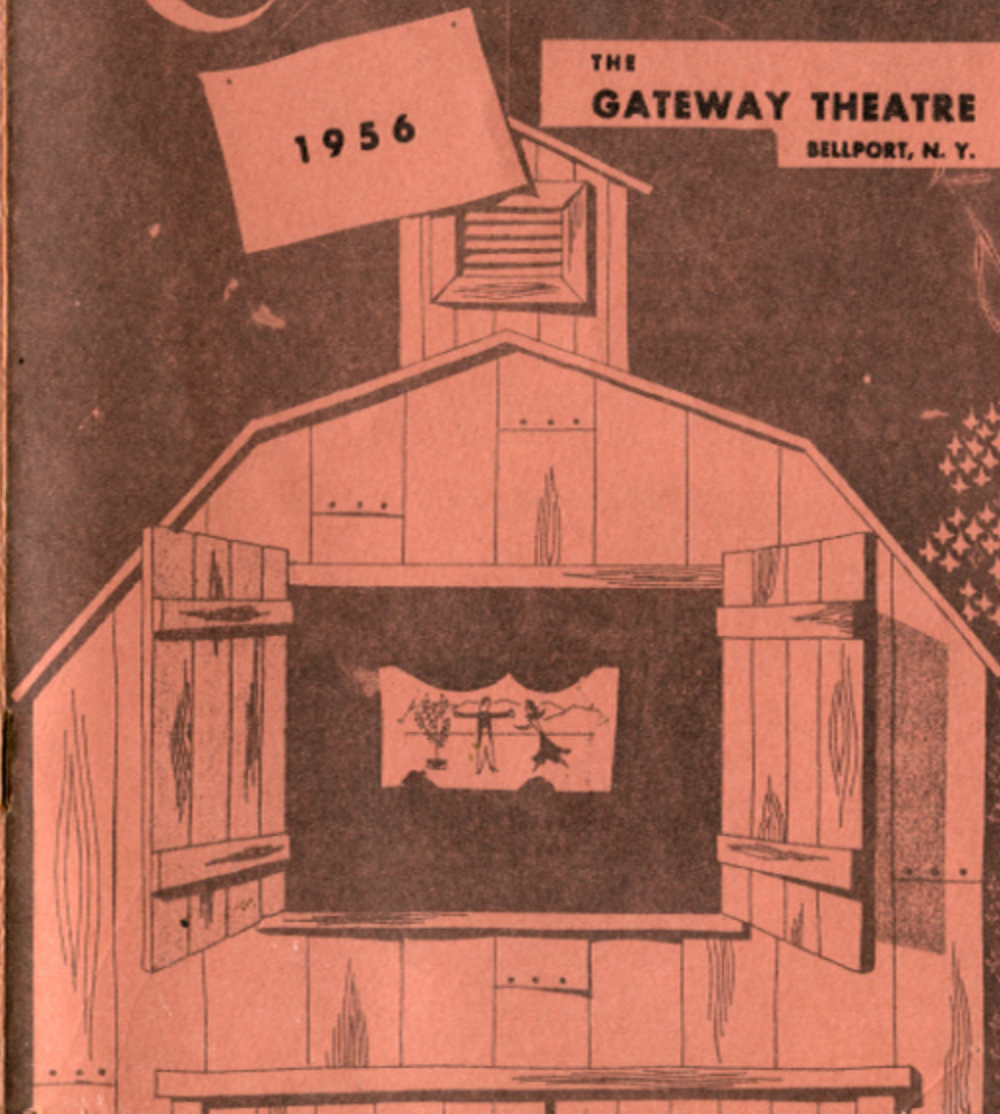
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ARENA, the original style of acting, goes back as far as the Greeks in their amphitheatres, and the Romans in their colosseums. In Shakespeare's day, the Elizabethan stage had the audience sitting on three sides of the actors. Regular proscenium stages, or the conventional theatre as we know it today, with the platform on one end of a hall, came with the artificiality of the Restoration era, and along with it came an artificial style of acting, whereby the actors would face front and shout lines to each other.

THEATRE, like everything else in our last century, has grown more and more realistic not only in its subject matter, but in its presentation. In consequences, we are experiencing, in our day, the inevitable change in the outward form as well.

TODAY, with all of our television and movies, people have become used to the intimacy of seeing people "up close." Having adjusted to the 3-Dimensional Cineramic, stereophonic screen, we are more aware, and ready for this same change in our theatres. Now that we can see and hear without effort, living theatre has become an experience as exciting as films but with twice as much pulse.

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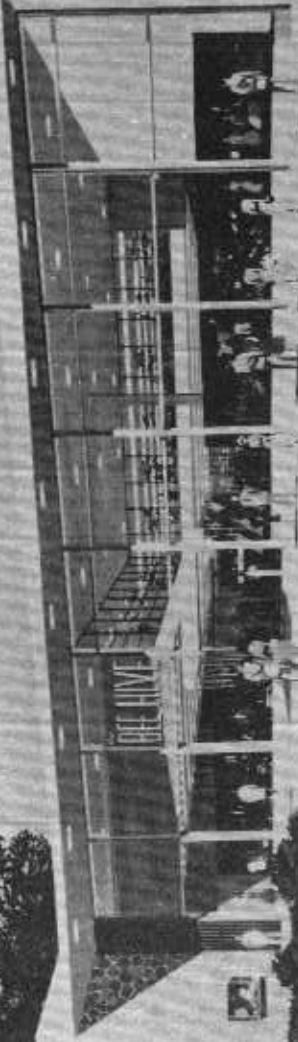
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The Gateway Theatre was organized eight years ago by a stage-struck group of college students who wanted to join the "little theatre" movement to help decentralize theatre.

Throughout the years, professional actors joined the group, and Gateway developed a national reputation as being one of the few summer theatres producing good plays, reviving classics, and trying out the works of new playwrights.

Now in its eighth season, Gateway is a regular professional summer theatre employing actors who are members of Equity. Gateway runs an apprentice school where students have daily classes in drama and dance in the Theatre Workshop.

More and more people from the community have taken an interest in the barn productions, not only in an acting capacity, but as sponsors, patrons, season ticket holders, backstage workers, contributors to the prop and costume rooms. We welcome this interest because we feel that theatre necessarily involves and specifically is a community venture.

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Sally Laurence is unique in that she has bolstered her career as an actress by being a successful director, and bolstered her career as a director by being a successful actress. Most recently she has returned from Houston, Texas where she was a resident actress with the Playhouse Theatre. While in Texas she appeared on numerous radio and TV shows over stations KUHT, KTRK, and KPRC. Educated at Principia College and Columbia University, Miss Laurence has played off Broadway, been on the road with national touring companies, and has played stock for nine seasons. Her own adaptation of Antoine de St. Exupery's THE LITTLE PRINCE was produced off-Broadway at the Barbizon Plaza theatre in '53. With an MA in education, she was head of the Drama Dept. at the Putney School in Ver. for 3 yrs. She worked with Pierre Sonnior, mime partner of Marceau in Paris.



An audience favorite at Gateway last season was **Bob Duvall** who will be remembered for his rugged portrayal as Hal in Picnic, Paris in The Crucible and Witch Boy in Dark Of The Moon. Mr. Duvall has appeared with the McClean Summer Theatre in Virginia and the Arena Theatre in Washington, D. C. After completing his studies at college in Elmhurst, Illinois, he served in the U. S. Army for 2 years. This past winter he appeared at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York and studied acting with Sandy Meisner. This season marks his third with the Gateway Players.

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Ten years ago **Ruth Vickers** made her stage debut as Corliss Archer in *Kiss and Tell* with the Bellport Summer Theatre. Since then she has studied acting at college in Illinois, has appeared with C. W. T. in New York and has been seen on the stage at the West Hampton Playhouse. Miss Vickers is one of Gateway's founders and aside from her duties as Company Manager she also teaches acting in the Gateway Theatre workshop. She has won critics praise for her portrayals of Gigi, and as Millie in *Picnic*. One of her favorite roles was that of Bessie Watty in *The Corn Is Green*. Miss Vickers met Stan Allan, station manager of W P A C, after a Gateway performance of *Years Ago* in which she had been appearing with Jay Jostyn. They were married in 1954.



Regular patrons of the theatre will remember **Joe Sommer** who thrilled audiences his past 2 years with the Gateway Players as Tom in *Lady's Not For Burning*, Charles in *Blythe Spirit* and Gaston in *Gigi*. Mr. Sommer returns to Bellport after a winter of acting at Carnegie Tech. in Pennsylvania. He is originally from North Carolina and studied acting at Oberlin College and Carnegie Tech. During the summer of '49 he appeared with the Putney Summer Theatre in Vermont. Some of his favorite roles include Prometheus in *Prometheus Bound*, Peer in *Peer Gynt* and Casanova in *Camino Real*.

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Will Masters	George Greenfield
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Dr. Lyman	Josef Sommer
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Virgil Blessing	Bob Duvall
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Assistant to Director - Bobbi Cohen

Set designed by Les Harris

The action of the play takes place in a street-corner restaurant in a small town about thirty miles west of Kansas City. It is a night in early March. Act I and II take place at 1 a. m. Act III is early morning about 5 a. m.

The 1956 summer season at Gateway closes the barn doors with a repeat performance of "BUS STOP" brought back by popular demand. We welcome all your suggestions for Gateway: 1957 on the blank provided on the left.



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Returning to Gateway for her second season is **Marge Barnett** of New York City. Miss Barnett has acted abroad with the Oxford Players, in England, at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, and the American Repertory Theatre in Berlin, Germany. In this country she has acted in Indiana, the Wareham Music Circus in Mass. and the Crossroads Playhouse in Washington, D. C. She was also heard over the radio waves while in Berlin. Audiences will remember Marge Barnett as the mother, Flo, in PICNIC, and as Susan in CAT AND THE CANARY.



A new face this season at Gateway is 6'4" **Roy Barbata** who hails from New York. He was educated at Queens College and while in the Army performed with the Special Service productions of "You Can't Take it with You" and "Good News." He has appeared with the Nisswa Summer Theatre in Minnesota for 2 seasons. Last summer he was with the Barn Theatre in Kalamazoo, Michigan. There he played such parts as Big Jule in Guys and Dolls and Captain Southard in The Caine Mutiny. Mr. Barbata has an exceptionally fine baritone singing voice and when in New York sang the part of Melchior in "Amahl and The Night Visitors."



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Ralph Smith is a product of New York University, University of Southern California and Idaho State College. He comes to Gateway from Pennsylvania where he was director of Drama at the State teachers College at East Stroudsburg. He was also director of drama at Norwalk High School, Norwalk, Connecticut. During the summer last year, Mr. Smith was technical director of the Bushkill Playhouse in Bushkill, Pennsylvania. Previously he was technical director with the St. Paul's Players in Washington, D. C. This is his first season with the Gateway Theatre and will act both as technical director and as a director of the productions.



A resident of New York City **Milt Commons** has had varied experience in theatre. He has appeared Off-Broadway in the Black Friars production of Angelic Doctor, and in Hollywood California played in Abies Irish Rose and At War With The Army. Some of the theatres who have used his talents are the Kennebunkport Theatre in Maine, Sombbrero Playhouse in Phoenix, Arizona, Keene Theatre in Keene, New Hampshire, Playhouse Theatre, Houston, Texas and the Allenberry Playhouse in Pennsylvania. Mr. Commons has performed with such notable performers as Edward Everitt Horton, Charles Coburn, Zazu Pitts, and Mickey Rooney.

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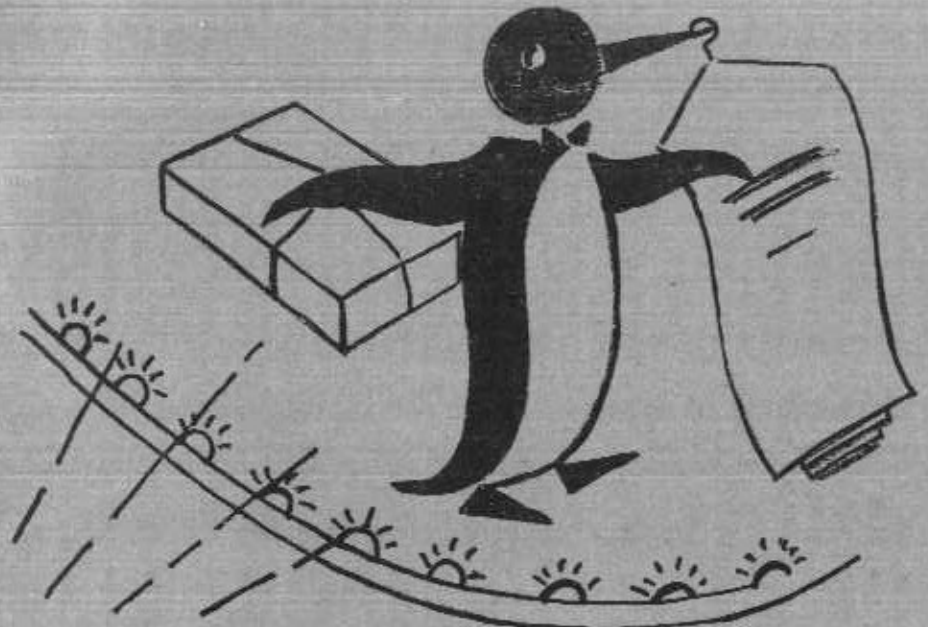
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