

Tennessee William's Play Well-Handled at Theater

By Marjorie Goodwin
Tennessee William's first Broadway success "The Glass Menagerie," which is currently offered at the University of Gull Theater, is an amazing and satisfying experience for theater-goers. This is true both because of the brilliance of the dramatist and the very commendable correlation of Horace Robinson's players with this "play of memory."

This Ethey R. Sawyer memorial production for 1946-49 opened Friday at Guild Hall and will play Feb. 8-12.

The cast of four players was coordinated beautifully with William's attempt at "truth in the disguise of illusion," a sentimental non-realistic drama which calls back "memory where everything seems to happen to music."

Difficult to Execute
Symbolic, experimental and expressionistic works are usually difficult for young actors to execute. In the case of "The Glass Menagerie" this is doubly true because the young playwright has attempted to capture, not only his life in St. Louis in the 1930's but the haunting, difficult personalities of his sister and his mother—and to weave out of everyday words and actions the world of truth which exists in the mind in any period of time.

Many plays which attempt to put across psychological cause and effect are arty, tiresome, lacking in unity and without "punch." "Menagerie" escapes these faults. Considering that the play uses one setting only, and that the conflict is not immediately apparent, the campus players were utterly dependent on their own abilities in delineation of character and action—which had to be soft and underscored for the most part.

Vogler Plays Tom

Louis Vogler plays Tom whose father was "a telephone man who fell in love with long distances." Tom eventually leaves his dependent mother and sister because he feels himself pursued by his basic nature as a lover, a hunter and a fighter. Living in a "two by four coffin world" he feels he has sold his dreams for a 65-dollar-a-month job. Vogler brings just the right amount of youthful rebellion and bitter courage to his role.

The part of Amanda, the mother of two children utterly lost in their environments, is played by Geraldine Hettinger. As a former Southern belle raised in a gentle world of illusion and beauty but reduced to a kind of Spartan acceptance of life, she was superb. Out of her characterization rises the theme of the play—A Gentleman Caller for the crippled girl. Her son as the narrator who is able to act as bystander in the drama, says the Caller is "the something we live for, long-waited, but always expected."

Personal Story
Williams wrote this play largely about himself and his family. His great attachment for the understanding of his shy, neurotic sister helped him to create Laura, certainly one of the most powerful characters in current drama. As the crippled girl, Mary Esther Brook faced a difficult problem. Laura is hard to bring to life without killing her off entirely. The young actress was able to pictorialize the dreamlike actions of the girl polishing her tiny glass animals, or writhing in quiet agony over the reality of emotions she could not absorb or accept. Laura "sits home and watches the parades go by."

The Gentleman Caller, who also represents fulfillment, and the "hard facts of life" was well done by Donald Dimick.

The relationship of brother and sister is the most moving theme of the play, and the most memorable scenes are those which describe, often without words, the compassion and dependency between the two. When Tom, drunk and angry, accidentally breaks some of the tiny figures Laura cherishes, the scene changes to wine and gold and black—outlining the two figures in heartbreak.

But it is Tom, both as player and narrator, who interprets scenes in the light of memory and reality (the time of the play is on the program as Now and the Past). In one instance, Tom stands at the window and looks across the street, saying that the many-colored reflections of the lights from the Paradise Dancer Hall represent all the repression of the world, "where couples found compensation in kissing in

the alley. Finding no adventure and no change, they had liquor, dancing, bars, movies and sex, a land of brief, deceptive radiance . . . all this is 1930, in the midst of a dissolving economy where people had failed their eyes—as the world waited for bombardment."

The profound expression of futility is left to Tom at the close of the play. Wandering across the world, he remembers the sister he deserted. He says, "I remember pieces of glass like bits of a shattered rainbow . . . the world is hit by lightning . . . blow out your candles, Laura, . . . and so goodbye."

Author Likes It
Thomas Lanier Williams, now 34 years old, says about his play and the glass collection belonging to his sister which inspired its writing, that it represented to him "all the tender things that relieve the austere pattern of life and make it endurable to the sensitive." The New York Drama Critic Circle presented "Menagerie" with its 1945 award for excellence.

Plaudits for the Eugene production go to Director Robinson; Peggy Randall, New York, who assisted him; the cast; Gordon Erickson for the setting; and to the production staff which included William E. Schlosser, Gordon Erickson, Pat White, Francis O. Bormuth, Edgar Michelson, Richard Paris, Wayne Wagner, Don Hunter and James Shaffer.

CONDITION 'EXCELLENT'

TEHRAN — (AP) — Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi made a nationwide broadcast to his people Sunday despite two wounds suffered in an assassination attempt Friday and palace sources said his condition was excellent.

Royall Says US Is 'Proud'

TOKYO — (AP) — Army Secretary Kenneth Royall told members of the American armed forces Monday that the United States was "proud" of their accomplishments in Japan.

In a speech over the Army radio station, Royall said the soldiers in Japan "would never be more wrong if you think because of distance you have been forgotten by the folks back home."

"Every American citizen is proud of what you have done in Japan."

Morale Is High
He emphasized that in his week's visit in Japan, he found the morale of the soldiers high and their spirit good.

"I recently visited the European Theater, and I will say again what I said upon my return from that trip—that we have today the finest Army America ever had in peace or in war."

Royall and his party left for a two-day visit to Korea.

During his visit in Japan, Royall indicated the country might become the American economic bastion against Communism.

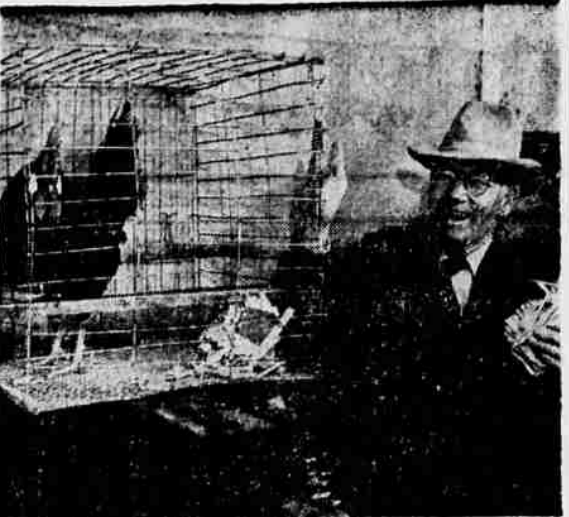
Military De-emphasized
Observers pointed to remarks in which he consistently de-emphasized the role the military would have in the future of Japan. He said he favored civil control, preferably under the State Department.

Observers noted that Joseph M. Dodge, Detroit bank president, arrived with Royall for an indeterminate stay in Japan "at Gen. Douglas MacArthur's request." He was significantly given the title of minister, which puts him on as high a level as William Sebald, allied headquarters diplomatic chief.

US Expenses, Receipts:

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Government expenses and receipts for the current fiscal year through Feb. (3), compared with a year ago:

	This Year	Last Year
Expenses	21,105,782,741.72	20,157,747,938.79
Receipts	22,061,874,524.82	23,416,628,760.26
Surplus	956,091,783.10	3,258,878,821.74
Cash balance	4,795,562,872.82	3,119,762,305.55
Public debt	252,618,105,289.51	254,858,865,855.75
Gold reserve	24,278,612,233.14	22,933,961,224.80



IT'S GOING, GOING, GONE for poor old Polio Pete, and another donation for the March of Dimes. The Jaycees March of Dimes mascot, after this week, may well hold the nation's record for the number of times any one rooster has ever been auctioned off. G. E. Goodnight, of Goodnight's auction, collects March of Dimes pledges with one hand while describing the physical virtues of Pete with the other.

Meet Polio Pete, The Selling Bird

Polio Pete — the brave little rooster who has been and will be sold and resold more times than any other member of his kind can boast — will go back on the auction block several times this week for benefit of the March of Dimes.

The Jaycees found him somewhere, and have been using Pete for a mascot during their efforts to put the March of Dimes drive over the top. He has been a familiar site by the Jaycee wishing well at Broadway and Willamette St. each Saturday during the drive, and before the week is over, will be even better known to Eugene and Lane County residents.

E. G. Goodnight's auction on the Pacific Highway North, Koon's West End Auction, and Eugene Auction have all been cooperating, and will put Pete on the block again this week.

The bidding works like this: Pete goes on the auction block, and persons attending the auction are invited to make a bid for benefit of the March of Dimes. The catch is that each bid is collected. The individual bidding the highest gets the rooster—and turns him right back over to the Jaycees so he can be auctioned off again somewhere else.

Dr. Jess Hayden, chairman of the appeal in Eugene, said that Goodnight auctioned a hen last week, and raised \$22 with no trouble at all. He will auction off Polio Pete this Thursday at his regular auction.

In addition to other auction marts, Polio Pete may appear on the block before several clubs and lodges in Eugene this week. All proceeds go to the March of Dimes.

Rescue Crew Saves Miner

SHAMOKIN, Pa. — (AP) — Weary rescue workers saved a 62-year-old miner from a 30-foot deep hole Saturday night after he was entombed for nine and a half hours.

The miner, Alexander Pochekallo, mumbled "I'm all right, I'm all right" to the 25 rescue crewmen as he himself scooped out the last two buckets of coal to free himself.

Pochekallo and his son Joseph, 22, were caught by a cave in of his small independent mine at 9:15 a. m. His son was pulled up an hour later.

The elder miner was buried under a fall of earth, rock and coal and the rescue workers were forced to work singly in the four-foot square shaft. The debris had to be removed before there was any possibility of lifting the miner to the surface.

Several times the miner urged the rescuers to give up the fight, saying "don't bother, don't bother, I'm going to die."

Truman Plans Vacation
WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman is considering a flight to Key West in early March for a vacation.

While there has been no White House announcement, persons close to the President say he wants to get away for a rest. They add that it will not be possible for him to leave for the Naval submarine station at Key West until sometime in early March.

CVA Sets Meet To Get Backing

SEATTLE — (AP) — Officials of ten labor and farm groups are scheduled to attend a meeting in Portland Feb. 19 to discuss plans for enlisting support for the Columbia Valley Authority.

Harold G. Tipton, executive secretary for the CVA, said that Congressman Hugh B. Mitchell would come from Washington to attend. President of the league, Mitchell introduced in 1945 the original bill proposing creation of the CVA.

Organizations to be represented include the Washington and Oregon Granges, the Washington, Oregon and Idaho State Federations of Labor, the Oregon and Washington State CIO and the Oregon, Idaho and Montana Farmers' Union.

The British Royal Air Force was formed in April, 1918.

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