

Shakespearean Festival Has Excellent Year

Fresh Ideas, Enthusiasm Please Record Audiences

The regret which the end of every Oregon Shakespearean festival season brings is tempered this year with extreme pleasure and pride, for this has been one of the festival's best years.

The company was excellent, and a number of fine, new actors added their talent to the old guard which festival fans have come to appreciate more and more as the years have gone by. Directors approached their tasks this year with fresh ideas and enthusiasm, and the results have pleased the audiences — audiences which broke attendance records night after night. Even Mother Nature smiled on the 1957 festival, and no performances were ruined by weather.

The Ashland event is truly a "festival." Signs and banners in the city of Ashland proclaim this and anticipation is heightened by the pathway lights in Lithia park, the banners about the theater walls, the gay booths where food and gifts are sold and the colorful plantings of flowers. This year the crowds which gathered at the back of the theater grounds long before play time seemed always to be in a holiday mood; they responded warmly to the costumed singers and dancers who performed each evening before curtain time.

No Mere Carnival

However, the Shakespearean festival at Ashland is no mere carnival. It is a worthwhile artistic endeavor, a significant cultural, dramatic and academic achievement as well as a civic project in which hundreds take pride. With the addition of the Institute of Renaissance Studies, lectures, and concerts of both music and dance, the festival now offers both the academic and dramatic fare which the Shakespearean student and lover demands.

This reviewer sees every play every season and each year our choice of the best play of the year is always the history. They offer more to hold the interest than even the tragedies, which run a close second — there is more meat to the plots and more excitement in their unfolding. This year is no exception — we choose "Henry VIII" as the best play of the year, with "Pericles" as runner-up.

Directors and theaters seem to shy away from "Pericles." Could it be because, as happened in Ashland, this melodramatic play produces a mixed reaction in the audience which is disconcerting? Thursday during the performance in Ashland some in the audience would laugh aloud at a moment when others were deeply stirred. A divided audience often is a distracting influence, lessening the enjoyment of the play.

Seen Three "Othellos"

Our theatrical fare this summer included three performances of "Othello," one at the Stratford, Conn., Shakespearean theater and two Ashland productions. They offered interesting contrast. Stratford achieved more dramatic staging, although the entire theater is less Elizabethan than Ashland, and the Stratford performance had a greater impact for this patron.

Alfred Drake's playing of Iago at Stratford was aptly described by the Saturday Review writer as a "top sergeant mad at the general." William Oyler's portrayal at Ashland was that of an intelligent man who deliberately and coldly plots treachery. The latter we found more effective, but many playgoers are dissatisfied unless Iago is portrayed as a truly vicious person, and expressed disappointment—not in Oyler's acting but over the choice of characterization.

There were many outstanding performances among the men players. Remembered will be Richard Graham's excellent portrayal of Henry VIII, Michael O'Sullivan for his wonderful Cardinal Wolsey, George Vafiadis for his vivid acting as Orlando and as Pericles, and David O'Brien who seemed made for the role of Touchstone but turned in equally outstanding performances in "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and the Duke of Buckingham in "Henry."

Angus Bowmer, with his dog, Crab, and Nagle Jackson as Speed, turned in delightful comedy performances which saved "Two Gentlemen" from being a mediocre event.

Also due praise for their substantial portrayals are Kenneth Geist for his playing of Jaques, Jerry Mickey for his portrayal of Cassio in "Othello" and his equally intelligent presentation of roles in the other plays, and William Sharp for his good scenes in both "As You Like It" and "Pericles." Reviewing the month, it becomes evident that from the least player to the most outstanding, the company of men was better as a whole this year than in some past years.

Mary Jo Randall

Honors among the women go to Mary Jo Randall. She capti-

vated audiences as Rosalind, and in the heavier role of Emilia was equally fine. Rosalyn Newport gave a sensitive and tender performance as Desdemona, a role which is always overshadowed by the men of "Othello." No one is likely to forget Muriel Eisenberg for her playing of the flighty country wench, Audrey, and her broad characterization of the bawd in "Pericles."

The costuming, the music and sound effects, the dancing, the lighting — all continue to improve and to enhance the festival plays. One pertinent comment goes well here—one playgoer who has been attending the festival for years complained that the "trappings"—particularly the gorgeous costumes, distract her from watching the actor's faces and from concentrating on the beauty and poetry of Shakespeare's lines. Director Bowmer and his assistants might mull this over—year by year something is added—more stage decorations, more props, more music, more dancing, more lavish costumes. As long as the trappings enhance the drama and poetry of Mr. Shakespeare's plays, fine; they should not distract.—O.S.

Friends Compare Similar Productions

This summer several friends of the writer attended productions of Shakespeare's plays in various parts of the United States and England. It was indeed a pleasure to hear favorable comments on the Oregon Shakespearean Festival by them and have the local productions compared with those they had viewed previously.

This writer's vote for most delightful play for 1957 would go to "As You Like It." Most memorable are the parts of Audrey and Touchstone played by Muriel Eisenberg and David O'Brien. The clothing in last year's "Love's Labour's Lost" is still vivid in this reviewer's mind and it is wished that last year's plays could be forgotten (momentarily, at least) while viewing the current season's selections.

Coloring Excellent

Coloring this year was put to excellent use. To cite a few examples, the rich red and white of Cardinal Wolsey's garments in "King Henry VIII," the purples for Pericles and his followers, and the bright, sharp orange used in the brothel in "Pericles" in sharp contrast to the pale blue garments worn by Jean Cartwright as Marina in the same scene. And then, of course, there were the white robes of Diana in the final scene of "Pericles."

In Shakespeare's time some speeches or lines were directed to the audience in the "pit." Through the years this audience has vanished but the "spicy" speeches still remain. The listener sometimes wonders if the speeches should have vanished with their audience.

The splendid acting in all the plays represented many hours of hard work. Special mention should be made of Ed Brubaker as Gower in "Pericles," and the staging in various scenes in that same production. The beginning of the play was enhanced by the excellent lighting and makeup of the daughter of Antiochus which emphasized the evil in the part.

The wandering minstrel singers before the plays provided delightful entertainment for early playgoers. But this writer wonders if the singers harkened to "medical claims" this year, not a word was heard about a cigarette.—P.H.

Bard Wrote For and About All People

William Shakespeare wrote plays to entertain an audience, and even today, his plays are popular. It is the audience, and its response to a play, which make the play either a success or a failure. That Shakespeare's plays are entertaining is evidenced by attendance at the Oregon Shakespearean Festival which ended a highly successful season at Ashland last night. There are those who claim they do not like Shakespeare, basing their opinion largely on the idea that his plays are "high-brow." But the Elizabethan playwright wrote to entertain people from all walks of life, and he included all classes of people in his plays. This is obvious in the productions at Ashland this year.

Those same type of people can be seen in various walks of life today. It is true, there are few royal courts, but there are merchants, working people, and today's "country folk." But the majority of Shakespeare's characters can be transplanted into contemporary settings.

Shakespeare distinguished between classes of people by using verse and prose, specifically between the royalty and merchant class and the country folk, criminal elements and servants. It was done partly because cos-



Mary Jo Randall of Kansas City was a favorite with Oregon Shakespearean festival audiences this year. Miss Randall, from Kansas City, is seen here as Queen Katherine in "Henry VIII" and also played Rosalind in "As You Like It" and Emilia in "Othello."

Michael O'Sullivan, Redwood City, Calif., (center) was praised for his portrayal of Cardinal Wolsey in "Henry," and Jim Sheldon, Hollywood, appeared as Cardinal Campeius. (Arbuckle and Moran photo)



Ellen Kay of New York and Jerry Mickey, Spokane, were two of the capable actors who made the 1957 Oregon Shakespearean festival an outstanding success this year. Miss Kay is pictured here as the courtesan, Bianca, in "Othello" and Jerry Mickey played Cassio in the production. Both also appeared in other roles of the five plays presented in repertory style this summer by America's first Elizabethan theater. This was the 17th season.

tuming during the Elizabethan period was not as elaborate as today, and partly because it was an accepted form of writing.

Not Lines Alone

It is not the lines of a play, whether verse or prose, which make the play popular. This holds true not only with Shakespeare's works, but also with contemporary plays on Broadway. Without good directing, good acting and stage managing, a play has a slim chance of becoming a "hit."

The Festival was indeed fortunate this year in having a combination of these factors. Acting generally was improved over the 1956 season. The supporting roles this year surpassed those of last year, a fact which distinguishes a "high caliber" company. Many supporting roles were done with such force they dominated the particular scene, and are remembered vividly by the audience.

Such was the case of Muriel Eisenberg as Auvere, whose tactics in showing her love for Touchstone (David O'Brien) were most amusing in "As You Like It." Another was Jim Sheldon's interpretation of Thurio, Silvia's suitor in "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." Sheldon played the part of the foolish gentleman as such a gentleman would seem in real life, dominated by those who wanted to use him as they would.

Perhaps the most dominating supporting roles, which bordered on being the major roles, were those of Buckingham, Queen Katherine, and Cardinal Wolsey in "Henry VIII." O'Brien, Mary Jo Randall and Michael O'Sullivan carried those parts so well that, with Richard Graham's portrayal as King Henry, the play was by far the favorite of this writer.

O'Sullivan also was magnificent in the part of Cerimon, a lord of Ephesus, in "Pericles, Prince of Tyre." His hands, voice and stature played an important part in the roles of Cerimon and Cardinal Wolsey, and it is doubtful if those two parts could have been portrayed better than O'Sullivan did them.

Launce Memorable

Another memorable part was that of Launce, servant to Proteus, in "The Two Gentlemen." Angus L. Bowmer's interpretation of Launce, and the simplicity with which it was done, was truly entertaining. Among the supporting female

Woman Chemist Earns Living Testing Fabrics

By RUDY CERNKOVIC
United Press Correspondent

Mrs. Lisle Zehner is a chemist by profession and a scientific trouble shooter by choice.

The brown-haired researcher runs thousands of tests a month in her laboratory at Mellon Institute to determine whether fabrics are resistant to water and sun.

She investigates claims by manufacturers regarding their products. She advises the best soaps, detergents and other cleaning agents for use on various materials.

Gen. Matthew Ridgway, head of Mellon Institute, came into Mrs. Zehner's office with a personal problem recently. His suit had a dab of ink and he was to attend an important meeting.

Mrs. Zehner whipped up a cleaning agent of detergent and water. The general went spotless into the meeting.

Mrs. Zehner spends one day a week in a downtown department store studying complaints. If tests show the merchandise is faulty, both the store and customers can claim refunds.

Early this summer one store received numerous complaints about an expensive bathing suit. Customers said yellow stains appeared in the suit after a few wearings.

Tests convinced Mrs. Zehner that sponge rubber in the suits was responsible for the discoloration. The suits were recalled by the stores and returned to the manufacturer who made refunds.

A laundryman who does Mrs. Zehner's work finally worked up enough courage to ask her a question recently. He said for years he had been puzzled because her husband's shirts had been neatly clipped at the back.

Mrs. Zehner, smilingly explained she snipped off the shirt ends for materials used for tests.

Housewives frequently call Mrs. Zehner's office to ask how to remove stains, what synthetics are the best for household use and what soaps and detergents are the best.

Mrs. Zehner advises the callers to read the labels on clothing and fabrics.

She advises ironing synthetics at a low heat. Such materials should not be wrung by hand or machine or they will acquire permanent wrinkles. It is best to hang them dripping from the rinse water.

It is suggested trying a single color at first, so the child gets the "feel" of his work before mixing colors.

times most suitable for the play settings.

Along with costuming goes make-up, directed by Graham. His make-up of Othello is probably the most notable, but also outstanding was his treatment of Pericles who must be transformed from youth through middle age to an old man with a beard.

David A. Thayer's lighting directorship proved effective and was most appropriate, perhaps in the first scene of "Pericles" to add to the scene's weirdness. Night scenes seemed more effective this year.

All these — the play itself, actors, directors, costuming, make-up, lighting—go to make a successful play, and that they did at Ashland.—E.H.A.

Art Critics Laud Young American

By HENRY F. SCHULTE
United Press Correspondent

Madrid — **U** — The Spanish have labeled 20-year-old Joan Markson "the millionairess American painter with the Italian name who exhibits bullfight pictures in Madrid."

It was with such a headline that the evening newspaper "Pueblo" recently introduced a series of articles on the New York-born Miss Markson, known professionally as "Giovannella."

"Pueblo's" critic, Sanchez Camargo, praised her as an artist whose work was "surprisingly good." She had, he said, captured "the flavor" of Spain.

Other papers and other critics here hailed Giovannella as at least a potentially great artist.

One — Mariano Tomas, writing in "Madrid" — compared her to Goya and Rembrandt.

The outburst of laudatory criticisms, which welcomed her one-woman show, was climaxed when the respected Madrid "Circle of Fine Arts" elected her to honorary membership. She was the second American and the first young person of any nationality to receive such an honor.

Miss Markson, well into her sixteenth year of painting, is quick to discard the "millionairess" tag as "just a bunch of baloney."

Began Studies

Her father, John Markson, New York businessman — art collector, appears rich to Europeans. In early 1954 he took a leave of absence from his firm to bring her to Europe. He, Mrs. Markson and Joan are still here.

When the family arrived in Rome in 1954, Joan began a study of painters, especially the Renaissance masters. Then she had a solo showing in Rome.

She studied by herself during 2½ years there, because, according to her father, "There is no one who can teach Joan, I mean Giovannella, anything."

In February of 1956, the family flew to Madrid for a few weeks at the sprawling Prado, with nearly 3,000 pictures.

By this time, Joan was "Giovannella," an Italianization of her name, in tribute to the Italian greats.

She liked Spain — especially the bullfights, a favorite subject of recent drawings and paintings — and the weeks stretched into months.

New York In November

The family's departure has been postponed until November, when they hope to head back to New York.

No one has greater faith in her abilities than her father who said he recognized genius when at four, she took up the brush.

"She was offered a one-man show by a New York gallery at the age of eight when she painted in a bold primitive style on the order of Picasso, only better . . .," he said.

He predicted she would become one of the great painters of the ages. The critics, while lacking some of the enthusiasm of the fond father, haven't done anything to throw cold water on such dreams.

After all, to be compared in print with Goya and Rembrandt isn't bad for a girl of 20.

Youngsters Enjoy Finger Painting

Urbana, Ill. — **U** — Youngsters enjoy finger painting and learn a sense of design at the same time, says University of Illinois child development specialist Patricia Robinson.

But for best results, child and parent must be properly prepared.

Try dressing the young artist in one of Dad's old shirts. Miss Robinson suggests cutting the collar and sleeves off and putting the shirts on the "artist" backwards, thus making a neat overall smock.

A utility room, or any large place that is easily cleaned up, a large piece of oil cloth or a porcelain top table and junior is ready to create.

Tax Payer Lodged After Rights Confused

Cincinnati, Ohio — **U** — A. G. Falen, 46, figured as a taxpayer in good standing he was entitled to city-owned property.

He was stopped by two patrolmen recently and questioned about a heavy package he was carrying. The package contained five window weights "from a building the city owns."

"I'm a taxpayer," Falen told the officers. "I need them."

The understanding officers offered him city "hospitality" and escorted him to a well-known lodging on city property.



OLDEST GRAD—O. Meredith Wilson, president of the University of Oregon, recently visited with George Dunn of Ashland. At 93, Dunn is the oldest living university graduate. He was graduated with the class of 1886, and before retirement was a president of the First National Bank of Ashland and a state senator from 1923 to 1936. President Wilson stopped for a chat at the Dunn home while in Ashland for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival.

GRANDVIEW-LONE PINE School To Open Wednesday

By LILLIAN KNIGHT
Grandview-Lone Pine—Lone

Pine school will open Wednesday, Sept. 4 for the registration of all students. Buses will run on approximately the same schedule as last year and will return the children to their homes before lunch. The cafeteria will open Monday, Sept. 9, when the regular school schedule begins, according to principal Lee Merriman.

First graders must bring some proof of their birth date and a health examination record before they can be admitted to classes. Sept. 5 and 6 are in-service training days for teachers, so school will not be in full session until Monday.

Teachers for this year are Mrs. Mabel Hundley and Mrs. Rachel Guetzlaff, first grade; Mrs. Edith M. Thornton, second grade; Mrs. Rachel Scheel, third grade; Mrs. Ruth Brostad and Mrs. Dorothy Rix, fourth grade; Mildred Schwendener, fifth grade; Mrs. Beatrice Lindsay, sixth grade; Mrs. Frances Henry, seventh grade and Girls' PE; Niles B. Smith, eighth grade and Boys' PE; Richard L. Michaels, eighth grade and music; Lee Merriman, principal; and Mrs. Estelle Ballard, clerk and office secretary.

Mrs. Margaret Versteegan and Mrs. June Hult will again manage the cafeteria. Ivar Hult, Bert Cook, and William Wheeler will be the bus drivers and custodians.

Bud Lowery, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lowery, has been in Sandy, near Portland, for the past two weeks, visiting with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lowery and son Garland will spend the Labor Day week end camping and fishing at Dog Lake near Lakeview.

Mr. and Mrs. George Knight and two little boys have returned to their home in Palmdale, Calif., after spending a few days with his parents and visiting other relatives and friends in the valley. Knight is with Convair, in the painting department, where the finishing touches are applied to the jet planes.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Vroman and family returned Aug. 22 from their vacation, the first week of which was spent on the Skyline trail and hiking into Heavenly Twins, leaving their car at Cold Springs. Later they went to San Francisco, where they visited relatives, and went to the zoo, Chinatown, Playland, Fishermen's wharf, and Mother Goose-land in Oakland.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Henderson and family will leave Sunday for a two week vacation to visit relatives in Astoria, Seattle, Vancouver, B.C., Pendleton, and Portland.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hesse and three boys of Fresno, Calif., are spending the Labor Day week end with Mrs. Hesse's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ebsen.

Eggs and Oatmeal Combine in Omelet

New York — **U** — Eggs for breakfast or oatmeal for breakfast, which shall it be? You'll find these two favorites can be combined into a tasty omelet.

To make, beat together 2 eggs, ½ cup milk, ½ teaspoon salt and 1/3 cup rolled oats, quick or old-fashioned.

Pour into a hot frying pan containing 1 tablespoon of melted shortening. Cook over low heat. Remove the cover and place under the broiler until the top is golden brown. Fold in half; cut and serve two.

When the "work" is done, warm water washes the paints off, or if you want to keep the "original" you can hang it by two corners until dry.

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