

'Antony' Production Studded With Gems Completes 1st Cycle

Ashland - "The Tragedy of Antony and Cleopatra" was presented here Friday night to complete the first cycle of plays on the new and highly successful Oregon Shakespeare Festival stage.

The production was studied, like Cleopatra's crown, with several thespian gems and James Sando's direction - the crown itself - was generally bright and graceful.

The play itself is a tragedy, that of a man drawn from duty - and ultimately, honor - by a consuming passion. And it is a love story.

Yet in this play, unlike "Macbeth" for example, no wheels of fate stretch the hero on a rack of relentless circumstance, and no fear of death or doom hunts him. If a jealous Nemesis is indeed responsible for the lovers' downfall, she is certainly unobtrusive.

Unconventional

As a love story it is also unconventional, for we are shown the passion flower's fruit, not its petals. If the hero has not entirely won his heroine, the initial pursuit at least is over long before the play begins.

The character of Antony is complex. However, to this novice reviewer at least, his stature must be heroic else he cannot embody his massive passion.

In Theodore Marcuse's performance, we saw a man of lesser stature, more an "old ruffian," as Octavius Caesar once calls him. In place of passion, more often there was lust, as in his habit of grabbing rather than embracing his "Egypt."

In Act III, when after a shameful deportment in battle he is revived from self-loathing by Cleopatra's presence and says, "Give me a kiss. Even this repays me," it appeared that the prospect of a debauch rather than a flame of love danced before his eyes.

Found Enchanting

Barbara Waide as Cleopatra we found enchanting. Her coquettishness before Octavius Caesar in Act V brought many appreciative murmurs from the audience.

She portrayed the Egyptian queen so that her wiles seemed instinctive, part and parcel of her personality, rather than the fruits of conscious scheming.

This choice of interpretation, in which Cleopatra is rendered ultra-feminine, somehow to us at least failed to harmonize with Marcuse's Antony. There was a lack of rapport between the two lovers - that rapport one looks for, despite surface fluctuations, in continuing intimate relationships.

Austere Caesar

Among other performances, Paul Nagle Jackson's austere Octavius Caesar, Antony's countryman and foe, we thought outstanding. Jackson's diction, even to our untutored ears, is a particular pleasure.

Enobarbus, Antony's lieutenant who deserts him only to die in remorse later, was played effectively by Edward Grover.

He performed Enobarbus with lusty realism, a quality appropriate to this character where it appears less so in Marcuse's Antony.

Angus Bowmer, the festival's producing director, performed both Lepidus and the worm-mongering clown with his customary skill.

Other Portrayals

Among other portrayals we thought especially effective were those of Thidias, Caesar's ill-bent messenger to Cleopatra, by Joel Riggs, and Scarus, one of Antony's commanders, by Richard Rizzo.

Mark Hammer's Mardian, a eunuch of Cleopatra's household, could, we thought, have been etched more sharply. One or two voices in the cast were lacking in diction, and there was an unfortunate tendency toward shouting in the heat of battle. Might not a quickened delivery convey excitement as well?

We would like to single out several scenes in particular for their effectiveness. One involves Cleopatra's treatment of the messenger from Rome, played by John Hawkins, who tells her of Antony's betrothal to Octavia. Both are excellent.

Second Moment

A second is the rib-tickling moment of ribaldry on Pompey's galley in which Antony tells Lepidus, well into his cups, about the Nile crocodile. "It is shap'd, sir, like itself . . . and the tears of it are wet."

"This a strange serpent," Lepidus comments thickly.

There were, however, other light moments which we trust were unintended. One arose from the unfortunate contrivance of having the dying Antony hauled aloft to Cleopatra's monument by her two dainty ladies-in-waiting. In our text, the guards "heave Antony aloft," which does not sound too effective either. We wonder if some-

how, perhaps by block and tackle, the ladies could be relieved of their burden - for it occasions laughter at an inappropriate moment.

Miscalculation

A second such moment arose from a slight miscalculation in delivery of lines. After Cleopatra and her two ladies have taken their lives, Dolabella rushes in and asks a guard, "How goes it here?" The guard replies "All dead," and several chuckles were heard.

Apparently, the similarity of Dolabella's query to our present-day casual greeting, "How goes it?" and a lack of feeling in the guard's reply gave the exchange an incongruous levity.

With respect to costumes, a fidelity to Elizabethan concepts may surprise those who believe a play set in Egypt should include Egyptian dress, such as one commonly sees in productions of Verdi's opera, "Aida." We must single out Cleopatra's brocade gowns for their particular beauty. Antony's "shirt sleeves," however, struck us as being, however authentic, something less than heroic.

We drove home from Friday night's enriching performance under a starry sky charged, as only Shakespeare can charge it, with new and special significance. Fragments of the play's language lingered:

"The chair she sat in, like a burnished throne . . ."

"The death of Antony is not a single doom . . ."

And, as we drove north on Highway 99 past the Cobra Farm we again heard Lepidus: "You've strange serpents there?" - E.W.

Benevolent Groups' Dissolution Sought

Salem - Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton Friday filed suit in circuit court here seeking to dissolve 11 benevolent organizations and place them in receivership.

Thornton's suit charges the benevolent societies with failing to comply with insurance regulations. The suit was brought after a request from V. Dean Musser, Oregon insurance commissioner.

The Multnomah county grand jury in Portland recently gave a clean bill of health to the organizations.

Societies cited in the suits include the Benevolent Order of Countrymen, the Countrymen Society Inc., the Independent Countrymen Inc., and American Countrymen Association Inc.; the Oregon Benevolent Society Inc., Western Benefit Society Inc., Western Mutual Benefit Association and Western States Service Inc., and the Benevolent Order of America, United American Inc., and Pioneer Pacific Inc.

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Thousands Watch Wagon Calvacade Enter Pendleton

Pendleton - Oregon's covered wagon train rolled into this Round-Up city yesterday and thousands of persons lined the streets to welcome it.

The wagons, which camped atop Immigrant hill 17 miles east of here Friday night, started out early and arrived here before 11 a.m.

Wagonmaster Tex Serpa was flanked by Umatilla County Sheriff Roy Johnson and Umatilla County Judge Sam Cook. The wagon train was escorted by a National Guard jeep.

Several minor traffic jams were reported on Highway 39 east of Pendleton for about an hour. The crowd was estimated at at least 5,000 persons.

The wagon train personnel were to attend a dinner here yesterday afternoon. A private flying service was to fly members of the cavalcade to Joseph to attend the Chief Joseph Days celebration last night. Those that remained behind were to be treated to a barbecue dinner at the Round-Up grounds, plus dancing.

The train will leave here Monday morning and head across the flat eastern Oregon country toward The Dalles where it embarks in a barge Aug. 10 for a trip down the Columbia to Portland.

Negro Trio Held For Georgia Rape

Lagrange, Ga. - (UP) - Three Negro men abducted two white girls returning from a dance early yesterday and raped them twice despite efforts of other Negroes to protect the girls, police reported.

The men were arrested shortly after the attack and ordered held without bond in the county jail here. They were charged with rape.

Sheriff L. W. Bailey identified the men as Clifford Johnson, 22, Brannon Epps, 25, both of Lagrange, and George Alford Jr., 18, of Dayton, Ohio. The girls, aged 18 and 20, were not identified because of a Georgia law.

Bailey said three other Negroes, "did everything they could" to protect the two white girls. But he said the three attackers were armed with a gun and a knife.

Rifle Scope Taken From Medford Store

A rifle scope valued at \$93.50 was taken from Medford Gun Shop, 1517 North Riverside ave., Medford police were informed yesterday.

Max L. Terzenbach, owner, told police the theft had occurred sometime in the past two weeks. He said the scope was attached to a rifle in the store but could have been detached with a coin or screwdriver, since only one screw would have to be removed.

Secretary Mitchell Asks Steel Labor, Employers to Negotiate

Washington - (UP) - Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell called on steel management and labor yesterday to quit shirking their responsibility to the nation and negotiate an end of the 18-day old steel strike.

He accused them of refusing to meet at the collective bargaining table or to consent to government mediation, and said it was time they met daily in an effort to reach "an early, just and equitable settlement" of their wage contract dispute.

Mitchell's statement was made in his capacity as President Eisenhower's one-man fact-finder in the dispute. It was the harshest yet voiced by an administration spokesman and apparently was made

with the President's full approval.

Mitchell and Eisenhower have been discussing the strike daily. Except for offering its mediation services, it was the first time the administration had offered any type of intervention in the dispute.

'Done Very Little'

Mitchell issued a special statement. He said both management and labor "have done very little to measure up to their responsibilities" in trying to end the strike.

He also said they had made "no serious effort, so far, to exercise their right of collective bargaining."

He said both sides "owed it to the American people and the thousands of workers affected by the strike" to bridge

their differences.

He said statements issued for management by Roger Blough, head of U. S. Steel, and by Arthur Homer, head of Bethlehem, during the past week add up to counseling the government not to become involved in the dispute.

'Get Involved'

On the other hand, he said, statements by David McDonald, president of the striking United Steel Workers, amount to urging the government to "get involved."

Neither side, he said, has made a "serious, conscientious, continuous effort to reach an agreement."

The labor secretary pointed out that the strike was now 18 days old and that negotia-

CIGARS AND SODA

Birmingham, Ala. - (UP) - A man with strong tastes and a weak stomach burglarized the Harris Transportation warehouse here. Police said he got away with 14 cartons of cigarets, 15 cases of pipe tobacco, two cases of plug tobacco, 12 cases of snuff and 15 cases of bicarbonate of soda.

Araphoe Glacier, near Boulder, Colo., is a mile long, a mile wide and two and a half miles above sea level.

and the union have met together just once, for only two hours.

"They have resisted efforts of the federal mediation and conciliation service to hold more face-to-face meetings," he added. "This is no way to bargain. They cannot reach agreement unless they talk to each other."

Teen-Agers Stage 'Tragedy' in Park

Ashland - (UP) - Play acting is becoming infectious during the Shakespearean festival here.

Seven teen-age boys last week staged an impromptu drama in Lithia park. They faked a traffic accident. One

of the boys smeared himself with red paint and climbed under an automobile while the rest spread the alarm. Word of the "tragedy" spread, and police arrived.

The youths were charged with disturbing the peace and parking a vehicle on a curb.

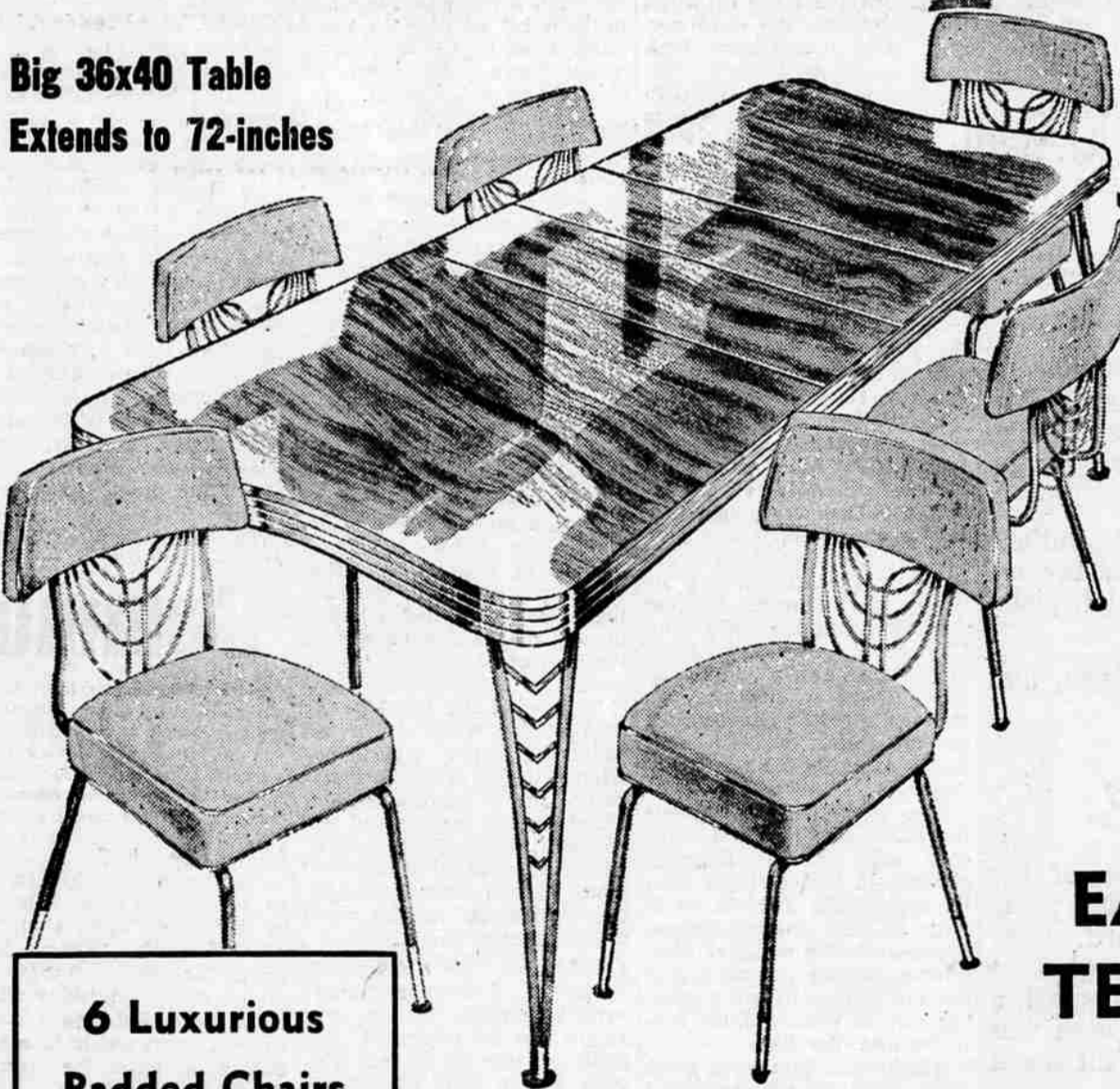
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