

Spectacular Lighting Big Feature In School Play

By JOY BIGGS

Dramatic lighting and sound effects of a cataclysmic mountain storm, extraordinary stage settings, gorgeous costumes and salvos of laugh-producing wit carried the 1947 KUHS student body play through four scenes to a pleased audience Thursday night.

"Lost Horizon," presented in the auditorium of KUHS by the dramatic group under the veteran direction of Mrs. B. B. Blomquist, played to a packed house. Audience reaction to the dramatized adaptation of James Hilton's story pronounced the play another success chalked up to the high school.

Following a rather obscure prologue enacted by Bob Plass, Lee Overen, Anita Kennebeck and Janet Welch, interest mounted as lights revealed gorgeously costumed actors against a startling background of snow-capped mountains seen through the stage-wide glass window of the lamasery of Shangri-La.

Most of the action took place in a foreground of lush oriental properties, while the dancing was in partial silhouette seen through the window with a spotlight catching jealous glimpses of apt Joan Appling, guest artist from University of Oregon.

Dressed in a fascinating green costume, Betty Cleig as Temple Dancer To Sai Len, with gong-bearers Wilbur Elliott and Jerry Pales, gyrated across the stage, picked out by the dimmed lighting.

Interest stayed with the players through each succeeding curtain reaching a new peak in the highly dramatized mountain climbing scene where slope after steep slope was gained by the three attempting to escape from Shangri-La.

Mel Stocklin as Conway, an Englishman, kept to his British accent throughout, still enunciating his lines with unusual clarity. Bud Selby was equally strong

in his portrayal of Mallinson, another "wreck" victim.

Rex Mills as an American business man won the audience with his amusing commentary on conditions in Shangri-La, and Dorthea Cogdill in a comic character role as Miss Brinklow, fourth crash victim, received an accolade of appreciative laughter for her portrayal.

Why anyone should be so impatient to leave such a dream valley where such lovely girls as Lo Tsen (Marilyn O'Neill), Helen, the lovely blond English girl (Ruth Soder), Tasha, whose small part was well played by Beverly Young, and quiet, dignified Ailing (Rosemary Bigbee) never grow old, was hard to understand.

Stan Smith as Chang did an excellent authentic job, followed about by his faithful shadow, Rod Allis, a Tibetan, who also looked his part.

The chant of the High Lama, chanted by Lee Goode, revealing the secrets of Shangri-La, seemed at times monotonously lengthy but the weird lighting which played about him as well as the very monotony of the chanted revelation held the spell throughout.

Patsy Kennett played a fine role as the old woman.

Mary Brown, Martha Dillon, Sidney Larson and Dick Griffiths played the roles of servants, completing the cast of 24 who together did no less than an excellent job.

Mrs. Blomquist is to be commended for splendid direction of such a heavy vehicle and for her suggestions and assistance to the stage and construction crew under F. Scapple, art and design crew under Robert Banister, sound and lighting effects crew and costume and property crew.

Twenty-one girls composed the "call to prayer," an a cappella chant of unusually sweet tones which wove through the scenes, swathed in white robes.

Considering all angles, "Lost Horizon" was a mighty production.

SEPARATION

HOLLYWOOD, March 28 (AP)—Rita Hayworth and Producer-Actor-Writer Orson Wells have definitely reached a parting of the ways after two separations and she will file a divorce suit soon, her attorney, Frank Belcher, announced.

City Delivery Service. Ph. 8417.

Work Starts On Sales Tax

SALEM, March 28 (AP)—The senate assessment and taxation committee began work today on the 3 per cent sales tax bill after hearing opposing predictions last night as to whether the people, who have defeated sales tax measures five times, would vote for it at the June 24 special election.

F. H. Young, manager of Oregon Business and Tax Research, a group of business and industrial men, told the committee that the people have changed their minds and really want a sales tax now.

But representatives of labor and farm groups predicted the

people would reject it by at least the 3 to 1 margin they beat it in the 1944 general election.

Kelly Loe, representative of the State Federation of Labor, said the bill would not raise much new revenue since so much of its estimated \$24,000,000 annual revenue would be given away to counties, cities and schools, and to reduce income taxes.

Young said the sales tax is the only answer to the state's financial problems, but Loe said the only purpose of the tax is to shift the burden from those best able to pay to those least able to pay.

SENATORS TRAIN

MEDFORD, March 28 (AP)—Thirty aspirants for the Western International league's Salem Senators will open spring training here next week.

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