5-8-1952

Program for the Stage Production The Philadelphia Story

Curtain Club
Ursinus College

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PRESENTS . . .

"The Philadelphia Story"
by PHILIP BARRY

Under the Student Direction of
DOLORES DE SOLA

With Stage Direction by
JACK DE LUCA

MAY 8, 9 and 10, 1952
CURTAIN — 8:30

Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French
"THE PHILADELPHIA STORY"

CAST

(In Order of Their Appearance)

TRACY LORD - - - - - - - - - Barbara Crawford
DINAH LORD - - - - - - - - - Nancy Bergman
MARGARET LORD - - - - - - - - Joan Higgins
ALEXANDER (SANDY) LORD - - - - - - Mike Van De Putte
THOMAS - - - - - - - - - Edward Noel
WILLIAM (UNCLE WILLIE) TRACY - - - - - - Dave Winther
ELIZABETH (LIZ) IMBRIE - - - - - - Doris Thompson
MACAULAY (MIKE) CONNOR - - - - - - Howard Roberts
GEORGE KITTREDGE - - - - - - - - Ernie Roemer
C. K. DEXTER HAVEN - - - - - - Tom Davis
SETH LORD - - - - - - - - - Harry Feulner
ELSIE - - - - - - - - - Marjorie Mersfelder
TONY - - - - - - - - - Jack DeLuca
MAY - - - - - - - - - Doris Fite
EDWARD - - - - - - - - - Fred Reiss

ACTION AND SCENE

The action of the play takes place in the course of twenty-four hours in the sitting room of Seth Lord's house in the country near Philadelphia.

The time is late June of the present year.

ACT I: Late morning, Friday

ACT II:

SCENE II: Early morning, Saturday

SCENE I: Late evening, Friday

ACT III: Late morning, Saturday

The furniture in this set has been provided by BLOCK'S of Norristown.
With Mr. Helfferich directing the performance and Mrs. Helfferich having searched high and low for the past few weeks for properties and costumes for the play, these two have proved invaluable tonight, as in the past, in making the Curtain Club’s presentations a success.

Although many of the members of the cast would probably agree that Mr. Helfferich is very exacting in his demands on them during rehearsals, they would undoubtedly also be willing to agree that the results are more than worth the effort entailed.

It was when the Helfferichs took charge of the Curtain Club in the early ’30’s that the club really began to look alive again, and ever since then the dramatic productions presented under their guidance here at Ursinus have been understanding. With this know-how from past experience and their outstanding capability and talent they have made our productions events to remember.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks for the work they have done for us tonight and express the hope that this will prove to be but one more of the successful dramatic productions which have been presented in the past and will continue to be presented in the future.
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TONIGHT'S STUDENT DIRECTOR

Tonight's student director, Dolores De Sola, has been a very active member of the Curtain Club for the past three years. She participated in committee work during her freshman year, and when she was a sophomore took charge of both the program and publicity committees for the production "The Condemned." She was program chairman for "Arsenic and Old Lace," and played the role of the corpse in that play; this might well be considered a bit part.

This year Dolores made her name a campus byword by playing Francis Black in the fall production, "Light Up the Sky." Many of those in tonight's audience will remember her hilarious portrayal. She was in the cast of and acted as program chairman for "Don't Feed the Animals," and was group director for "The Case of the Crushed Petunias"; both of these were among the shorter plays presented by the Curtain Club this year.

Dolores is a history major, a member of the junior class, and a loyal Brooklynite.

TONIGHT'S STAGE MANAGER

James De Luca, a senior, is a chemistry major. "Jack" served in the U. S. Navy before entering Ursinus. He has well earned his membership in Alpha Psi Omega, the honorary dramatic fraternity, through his extensive committee work and successful stage managing in "Rope," "Pygmalion," "Arsenic and Old Lace," and "Light Up the Sky." Jack was a member of the "Junior Miss" cast and tonight, in addition to acting in the role of Tony, he is stage manager.
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ASSISTANT STUDENT DIRECTOR

Inge Rudloff is a special German student studying political science and history here at Ursinus under the auspices of the Helfferichs. This fall she plans to return to Germany to complete her medical training, and so will not be returning to Ursinus.

She is a member of the Curtain Club and this will be her first experience with a dramatic production at Ursinus. However, she was an active member in several dramatic clubs in Europe, and has not only acted in lead parts, but has participated in all types of dramatic work.

PROMPTER

Without a doubt Jane Hopple is one of the outstanding members of the Curtain Club; she is the prompter for "The Philadelphia Story." She has played the leading roles in "Gloria Mundi" and "The Case of the Crushed Petunias." Besides serving on numerous committees for past productions, she was student director for "Angel Street" and last year served as historian for the Curtain Club. She was director of "Private Lives" and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega.
THE CAST

NANCY BERGMAN — Dinah Lord

Nancy Bergman, a freshman who shows much promise, made her debut on the Ursinus stage in "Private Lives." She was one of the group that gave "Suppressed Desires" for the Cultural Olympics at the University of Pennsylvania. While in high school, she took the leads in "Family Circle" and "Smilin' Through."

BARBARA CRAWFORD — Tracy Lord

Barbara Crawford takes the role of Tracy Lord in her first appearance on the stage. She has served as costume committee chairman for "Angel Street" and has done committee work for "Suppressed Desires" and "Arsenic and Old Lace." She was last year's Junior Prom Queen.

Barbie is editor of the Ruby, president of the English Club and is listed in the Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

TOM DAVIS — C. K. Dexter Haven

Tom Davis, a member of the graduating class, will enter Jefferson Medical School in September. This year Tom is president of the M. S. G. A. He played varsity football this past season and is a member of APE's fraternity. Tom has been an active member of the Curtain Club since he entered U. C. and is now a member of Alpha Psi Omega.

The productions of which he was a cast member include "You Can't Take It With You" and "Rope." Tom also directed two group plays and was stage manager for "Junior Miss."

HARRY FEULNER — Seth Lord

This is Harry's first appearance in a major production at Ursinus, although he had acting experience in high school.

He is an active member of the class of '53, having been its treasurer in his freshman year and the president during his sophomore year. Also during that year he was M. S. G. A. representative and is this year's vice-president. He is a member of the Varsity Club, Alpha Phi Epsilon, the football and track teams, and has just recently become a member of Cub and Key.

JOAN HIGGINS — Margaret Lord

Joan's role as Margaret Lord in this play, "The Philadelphia Story," marks the beginning of her career as an Ursinus actress. For a sophomore she has well succeeded in placing her name in the footlights on campus. She is a member of the Junior Advisors Committee, the Central Nominating Committee, member of the 'Weekly' staff and now vice president of the YWCA. Joan since the beginning of her life at Ursinus has been an active member of the Curtain Club, working on the Costume Committee and also the Program Committee.
THE CAST

HOWARD ROBERTS — Macaulay (Mike) Connor

This year’s Curtain Club president, Howard Roberts first appeared on the Ursinus stage in “A Waltz Dream.” Since then he has been seen in “The Will of St. James” and has had the leading roles in “Angel Street” and “Arsenic and Old Lace.” He worked on publicity and music for “Speak Easy.” He was student director of “Light Up the Sky” and of the operetta “Sari” and is a member of Alpha Psi Omega.

ERNEST ROEMER — George Kittredge

Ernie is an active member of the senior class, a member of the ‘Weekly’ staff, Sigma Rho Lambda fraternity and the Inter-fraternity Council. He has already illustrated his fine acting ability in the play, “Junior Miss,” which was presented during his sophomore year.

DORIS THOMPSON — Elizabeth (Liz) Imbrie

Doris Thompson, a sophomore, makes her debut on the Ursinus stage as “Liz” in tonight’s presentation. “Tommy” worked on the property committee for the fall play “Light Up the Sky.” She is a soprano soloist in the Meistersingers and a member of Phi Alpha Psi sorority. Tommy has been selected by the Class of ’54 as their representative member of the queen’s court in the May Day pageant.

MAURICE VAN DE PUTTE — Alexander “Sandy” Lord

This is also “Mike’s” first appearance on the college stage, although he was active in high school dramatics. He helped with staging for “Arsenic and Old Lace” and “Light Up the Sky.”

Mike is a sophomore, a member of Beta Sigma Lambda fraternity, and the tennis team. He plays intramural basketball. We shall be expecting to see more of Mike in future Curtain Club productions.

DAVID WINTHER — William (Uncle Willie) Tracy

Dave is a senior and is a member of Zeta Chi fraternity, the ‘Weekly’ staff and also an active member of the Spirit Committee—performing as a tumbler before the football fans. This is the first chance he has had to display his dramatics ability. Not only is he now legally an Ursinus actor, but also a regular stagehand, working on the Staging Committee for the past two years.
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They may not seem too important, but where would the play be without them? These are the characters that add spice to a performance. No show would be complete without its maids and butlers who spend anywhere from thirty seconds to three minutes on stage. By opening night the principals in the cast are more than a little envious of these lesser personages who have attended but few of the rehearsals. Minor roles in "The Philadelphia Story" are taken by Jack DeLuca '52 as Tony, Doris Fite '52 as May, Marjorie Mersfelder '53 as Elsie, Edward Noel '53 as Thomas, Fred Reiss '53 as Edward. Taking the part of the minister is Ed Abramson '54.

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PUBLICITY

How to make people interested in the show was the problem faced by the publicity committee. They had to have posters made, announcements read, articles inserted in local newspapers, and they had to be persuasive about it. Ed Sella '54 was the brains behind this task. His committee consisted of Barbara Kuebler '54, Kit Stewart '54, and Mildred Mistovich '55.

PROPERTIES

Finding a Gainsborough painting and a real bottle of imported French champagne proved somewhat difficult, but the property committee, headed by Ila Jane Lynn '53 and Glenna Faust '54, managed to succeed admirably in securing these and all the necessary background for the play. Others on the committee were Nancy Morrell '54, Thelma Carlin '54, Liz Conestrina '54, Jerry Diehl '53, Jean Campbell '54, Connie Ackerman '55, Barbara Powell '54, and Irene Schweitzer '53.

BUSINESS

The business committee handles the financial problems for each performance. They sell tickets, obtain ads for the programs, and generally watch over the money situation. The chairman was Tom Shaw '52. Also on the committee were Charlie Fach '52, Marie Jansen '52, Carol Lucas '53, Marna Feldt '53, Pete Schwenk '52, and Evelyn Scharf '53.
BEHIND THE SCENES

STAGING and LIGHTING

Erecting a set and then casting the proper amount and color of light on it to create the desired effect were the undertakings of the staging and lighting committees headed by Jack DeLuca '52. His assistants were Ed Abramson '54, Mizz Test '54, Lionel Frankel '53, Jim Scott '53, Joe Schuck '53, Elizabeth Ault '55, Milo Zimmerman '54, Steve Grant '53, Bob Davis '53, and Herm Lintner '52.

COSTUMES

In an attempt to discover clothes with the necessary sophistication for tonight's play, the members of the costume committee searched the campus from one end to another. The bridal gown and bridesmaids dresses were a real headache. Rhoda Blumenthal '52 was in charge of the monumental task, and she was aided by Maxine Walker '54, Barbara Stagg '52, Jean Lord '54, Butch Boyer '52, Kathy Wagner '54, Liz Haslam '55, and Dick Kizonas '52.

PROGRAMS

Members of the program committee must go about finding the facts about the people in the show, try to get them to be photographed without too much persuasion, and then arrange all the material in some sort of order for the layout. Heading this committee were Marge Mersfelder '53 and Jean Stewart '52. Working with them were Mary Sprenkle '53, Jeanne Careless '52, Dorine Witmer '54, Helen Lightfoot '53, Jean Austin '53, Ed Abramson '54, Milo Zimmerman '54, and Jean Benson '54.
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CURTAIN CLUB ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR

Tonight's performance is the culmination of the Curtain Club's activities for this year. As in the past, the club maintained its popularity among the students with a membership of 100. The president, Howard Roberts, led the organization into its many functions, all of which had the same result—success.

The Curtain Club was divided into four groups this year. To start off the 1951-1952 season one of these groups, headed by Janie Hopple '53 and Bill Degerberg '52, presented the first act of Noel Coward's Private Lives. This presentation which featured Nancy Bergman '55, Roland Dedekind '55, Priscilla Shinehouse '55, and Edward Stauffer '54, was a good beginning for the Ursinus theatre.

The next activity of the Curtain Club was the annual fall play. Moss Hart's Light Up the Sky was selected, and the Ursinus thespians proved their professional ability. The cast included Joni Graf '52, Ron Frankle '52, Dolores De Sola '53, Rhoda Blumenthal '52, and Dick Hector. Mr. Geoffrey Dolman as director did a superb job in his new role. He was assisted by Howard Roberts.

An extra treat was in store for the students the night that two of the groups gave a double feature. Don't Feed the Animals was in the realm of fantasy, envisioning a world in which the male of the species was indeed a rarity. It starred Maxine Walker '54 and Ed Sella '54, and was directed by Marna Feldt '53 and Ivy Leaman '52. The other play was Period House which dealt with a woman's flair for antiques. Ed Abramson '54 and Molly Hall '52 were directors while Gene Pascucci and Irene Schweitzer were co-stars. Miss Judy Miller '63 made her debut and so insured the club of good talent in the future.

At the Cultural Olympics, held at the University of Pennsylvania, Ursinus talent was highly cited. Ed Abramson '54, Nancy Bergman '55, and Rhoda Blumenthal '52 were commended for their acting, as was Joni Graf for her directing. They produced Suppressed Desires.

The Music and Curtain Clubs combined their efforts in the operetta, Sari. Marilyn Engleman '54, Charles Pritchard '52, Dorothy Schultz '54, Charles Summers '52, Jay Ely '52, and Bob McCarty '54 shared the spotlight. Again Howard Roberts was student director.

The play with the mysterious title, The Case of the Crushed Petunias, was the last group production. Janie Hopple '53, Steve Grant '53, Doris Thompson '52, and Milo Zimmerman '54 did well in interpreting Tennessee Williams' allegory. It was directed by Dolores De Sola '53 and Jim Scott '53.

And so ends another chapter in the activities of the Curtain Club—a chapter that can be looked back upon with pride. We are all looking forward to another eventful season next year.
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