5-13-1949

Program for the Stage Production You Can't Take it With You

Curtain Club
Ursinus College

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WELCOME
TO
MAY DAY
PARENTS
1949

"You Can't Take It With You"
The story is laid in the home of Martin Vanderhof—just around the corner from Columbia University, but don't go looking for it. The room we see is customarily described as a living room, but the term is something of an understatement. The every-man-for-himself room would be more like it. Here meals are eaten, plays are written, snakes collected, ballet steps practiced, printing presses operated, G-men entertained—if there were room there would probably be ice skating. The brood presided over by Martin Vanderhof goes about the business of living in the fullest sense of the word.

Grandpa made peace with the world long, long ago. One doesn't suspect that under the placid exterior of Penny there surges the Divine Urge—but it does, it does. Paul and DePinna manufacture fireworks, Essie and Ed are artists to a degree; while Rheba and Donald carry on in a "step-and-fetch-it" manner.

Brooklyn's gift to the plot, Henderson, is thoroughly outwitted by the whole family. Gay Wellington spends her time with a hang-over. Kolenkov and the Grand Duchess Olga, who left her wheat cakes and maple syrup for the evening, lend a touch of classic Russian.

Amidst all this, Alice and Tony seek love's true path. Tony's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, are brought to earth when they visit a night too early. Whatever the outcome — but wait and see for yourself.

If we take you any farther into the plot the G-men might take you with them.
THE CURTAIN CLUB
OF
URSINUS COLLEGE

PRESENTS...

"You Can't Take It With You"

by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman

Under the student direction of
RICHARD W. BRANDLON

With stage direction by
NORMAN H. WEISLER

May 13 and 14, 1949

Curtain — 8:15

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatist's Play Service, Inc.,
New York, N. Y.

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatist's Play Service, Inc.,
New York, N. Y.
"YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU"

— Cast —
(In order of their appearance)

Penelope Sycamore .................. BERNICE HARRIS '51
Essie .................................. CAROLYN WARREN '49
Rheba .................................. ANNE HUGHES '50
Paul Sycamore ......................... TOM SWAN '50
Mr. DePinna .......................... MANUEL PARSEGHIAN '51
Ed ...................................... JOE BEARDWOOD '52
Donald ................................. PAT DOUGHERTY '49
Martin Vanderhof ..................... FRED TISCHLER '49
Alice ................................... NANCY BARE '51
Henderson ............................. FRED BECKHARDT '50
Tony Kirby ............................. TOM DAVIS '52
Boris Kolenkhov ....................... WILLIAM KELLER '50
Gay Wellington ....................... MARY DEE WEINBERG '49
Mr. Kirby ............................. JOHN ULMER '49
Mrs. Kirby ............................ NANCY BRASCH '51
Three G-men .......................... RICHARD REID '49
...................................... DAVID BAHNEY '49
...................................... JOHN VANCE '49
Olga ................................... JANE NAGEL '49

Synopsis of the Scenes

ACT I
SCENE 1: The living room in the home of Martin Vanderhof
TIME: Wednesday evening

SCENE 2:
TIME: Two hours later

ACT II
TIME: A week later

ACT III
TIME: The following day
A Consistent Star
ANNA KNAUER HELFFERICH — URSINUS COLLEGE — '20

This is a good picture of the First Lady of the Ursinus Stage. She is gracious, charming, considerate and kind, beyond measure — a very great and good lady.

She gives more toward making our affairs a success than does any other crowd of six people. The details of all stage settings are the product of her genius for organization and detail. Every set holds much of the furniture and properties from her own home. Her cellar has trunk upon trunk of clothing, and box upon box of properties she has collected and preserved for the Curtain Club's use.

Within a period of a couple of hours, she irons the leading lady's ruffles, does the maid's hair, sews up the comic character's torn trousers, feeds the entire membership of the Curtain Club, and comes up with her curls as neat and her smile as sweet as the artist's conception of a Grand Duchess.

The Alumni of the early twenties will remember her as a fine actress in her own right. She says her best and most interesting role was played opposite an actor, named "Ty" Helfferich, and it continues so to be.

We nominate Anna Knauer Helfferich as our patron saint.

There is very much of a Mr. Helfferich. Sorry we had to cut his biography to make room for an advertisement!

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Tonight's Student Director

Richard Brandlon is well known in Ursinus dramatic and musical circles. Starting in his freshman year with a smaller part in Mr. and Mrs. North, Dick proceeded to make himself indispensable to Ursinus operettas by playing comic leads in Countess Maritza, Very Good Eddie, The Mikado, and Sweethearts. His talented and continuous hard work in the Curtain Club was rewarded last year by membership in Alpha Psi Omega, the national honorary dramatic fraternity. A senior Business Administration major, Dick is currently planning a brief career in the U.S. Navy before entering law school.

COLLEGE CUT RATE

Famous for Famous Brands
NANCY BARE — Alice
Sophomore Nancy, already an Ursinus' "name" for roles as Henrietta in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* and Lucy in *Uncle Harry* and directorship of *The Flattering Word*, performs equally well for WSGA, The Weekly and the English profs.

JOE BEARDWOOD — Ed
Stage hand deluxe for *Uncle Harry, Sweethearts, Monkey's Paw, and We Were Dancing*, Joe turns talents to acting for YCTIWy. Gets his scientific bend for math from famed ancestor-namesake.

FRED BECKHARDT — Henderson
Mr. B. displays diverse talents for directing *Uncle Harry*, acting *We Were Dancing*, and selling Fuller brushes *Mr. and Mrs. North*. Anticipates summer theatre work with an eye on the Great White Way.

NANCY BRASCH — Mrs. Kirby
One of Bob Hekking's and Anne Hughes' group, Nancy claims role as Cornelia Skinner in senior high school play, *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay*, as highspot of theatrical career to date. Handled business end of *Barretts and Harry*.

RHODA BLUMENTHAL — prompter
First-semester freshman Rhoda carries unsung heroine role of pace-setter, prompter for this, her first, Ursinus production. Lists singing and dramatics among accomplishments at Atlantic City High School.

TOM DAVIS — Tony
Busy pre-med schedules Nagel-Grove productions among campus doings. Navy vet with dramatic decorations for the lead in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, roles in *Family Portrait*, and *Ten Nights in a Bar Room*.

BERNICE HARRIS — Penny Sycamore
Another soph with an impressive background before lights. High school play, *Lady Precious Stream*, and summer coaching of drama at Kanesatakes Camp and Keystone College figure in extra-curric bits. Curtain Club shares her with Lantern, German Club, Phi Psi.

ANNE HUGHES — Rheba
Versatility-plus from Mona the Maid, *Uncle Harry*, to Mrs. Zooker *The Flattering Word*. The proverbial scene-stealer, she co-heads a C. C. group and recently stepped to membership in coveted Alpha Psi Omega, natural dramatics.

WILLIAM KELLER — Boris Kolenkhov
One of Ursinus' shining stars as *The Mikado*, Beverly Carleton in *The Man Who came to Dinner*, and Ben in *The Little Foxes*, and innumerable others. Man-about-campus performs on Lantern, English Club, and all-round activity.

MANUEL PARSEGHIAN — Mr. DePinna
Hekking-Hughes clansman with West Philadelphia High amateur experience, "Mr. DePinna" finds most satisfactory scholastic medium History-Social Science. A first-nighter in the strict sense at Ursinus, he almost steals the show from stealer Hughes.

TOM SWAN — Paul Sycamore
Ursinus' "professional," Tom has acted in high school, local amateur, and radio drama plus productions of two of his own musical comedies by his own co-organized group. At U.C. has M.C'd "Channel '50" and played roles in *The Flattering Word* and *The Monkey's Paw* in one night.
Top Row, l. to r.: Jane Nagel, Richard Reid, David Bahney, Rhoda Blumenthal, Tom Hotton
Bottom Row, l. to r.: Carolyn Warren, Mary Dee Weinberg, Pat Dougherty, Fred Tisch
van, Anne Hughes, Bernice Harris, Nancy Bare, Nancy Brasch, Manuel Parseghian

F, Fred Beckhardt, John Vance, William Keller, Joe Beardwood, Tom Davis, John Ulmer
DAVE BAHNEY, an ace athlete and business administration major, is making his first appearance on the Ursinus stage tonight as a G-man.

As Donald, the butler, PAT DOUGHERTY gets a fine opportunity to show off his southern accent. Pat, who is a business administration major, has had previous experience in The Man Who Came to Dinner.

Another veteran of The Man Who Came to Dinner is JANE NAGEL who is playing the part of the Grand Duchess Olga tonight. A group leader in the Curtain Club, Jane is an English major preparing to teach.

DICK REID, President of the Senior Class, has played an active part in the Curtain Club productions of The Man Who Came to Dinner, The Barretts of Wimpole Street, The Late George Apley, and Uncle Harry. Dick, who is a history major and a member of Alpha Psi Omega, is playing the part of a G-man tonight.

This year's President of the Curtain Club is FRED TISCHLER. Husband of last year's President, Sue Bellis, Tischler has the leading role of Martin Vanderhof in tonight's production. An English major, and member of Alpha Psi Omega, Fred has previously performed in Ten Little Indians, The Barretts of Wimpole Street, The Late George Apley, The Little Foxes, and Uncle Harry.

Mr. Kirby in tonight's play will be portrayed by that versatile Thespian, JOHN ULMER, this year's President of Alpha Psi Omega, the national dramatic fraternity on campus. An English major who has taken leads in Ten Little Indians, Mr. and Mrs. North, Spring Again, The Little Foxes, and Uncle Harry; and has shown directing ability in the operetta Mikado, and Sweethearts, John should go far in the professional theatre.

The third G-man is JOHN VANCE who is also making his first appearance on the stage tonight. John, who is a pre-medical student, has shown his ability in the entertainment field by organizing the "Club '49."

Although this is her first performance in a play, LYNN WARREN as Essie, has had previous stage experience in two minstrel shows at Ursinus. Lynn is a physical education major who is planning to teach.

The role of Gay Wellington will be played tonight by MARY DEE WEINBERG who was such a hit in The Late George Apley. Mary Dee is an English major, and is preparing for a teaching career.
TONIGHT'S STAGE MANAGER

Working with Dick Brandlon, is the stage manager for You Can't Take It With You, Norman Weisler. A member of Curtain Club for more than two years, he has contributed ability and effort to the group plays, If Men Played Cards Like Women Do, The Fourth Mrs. Phillips, and to the Mikado chorus. Although Norm has done other committee work, he is getting some of his first experience in this field of play production. He is an English Major and Vice-President of Beta Sigma Lambda.

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Curtain Club Activities for the Year

This has been a very active and successful year for the Curtain Club with Fred Tischler as president. *Uncle Harry*, a memorable production, was presented on December 3 and 4. John Ulmer '49 as Uncle Harry the unassuming murderer, and Gerry Navis '49 and Muriel Scholl '51 as his domineering sisters, played the leading roles in this psychological murder mystery, which was directed by Fred Beckhardt '49 and Jeanne Heal '49.

The other major production of the year was the operetta *Sweethearts*, given in cooperation with the musical organizations. The favorable reception it received from the audiences was well-deserved due to the joint efforts of the many people who contributed. The capable dramatic direction of John Ulmer '49 and musical direction of Dr. Philip, combined with the whole-hearted enthusiasm of the cast—and the invaluable committees—, made a performance which was almost professional. Starred in *Sweethearts* were John Clarke '49 and Nancy Mattson '50. Dorothy Kuntz '49 was the accompanist.

In addition to *Uncle Harry* and *Sweethearts*, given by the club as a whole, each one of the four groups was featured in a group production given for the entertainment of the students and the experience of the group members. The first of these was presented by Jane Nagel's group—... a chorus of "Maplettes" who tapdanced to the tune of *Downtown Strutters' Ball*. It also included a short skit, *Kiss the Zeps Off My Hands*.

John Ulmer’s and Sally App’s group presented *We Were Dancing*, a sophisticated comedy by Noel Coward, as the feature of its program. The play was directed by Sally App '50, and the leading roles were played by Susanne Dietz '51. Fred Beckhardt '49, Bill Keller '50, and Muriel Scholl '51. Two other groups contributed short skits to the evening's entertainment.

*The Monkey’s Paw*, a supernatural thriller starring George Saurman '50 and Jean Frederick '50, and *The Flattering Word*, a comedy starring Grace Matthews '52, Bill Jordan '51, and Tom Swan '50, were the contributions of Bob Hekking's and Anne Hughes group in the third program of the year. Accordion selections by Richard Buckwalter '52 completed a chilling then amusing program which was enthusiastically received.

Last but not least of the group productions featured *The Fourth Mrs. Philips*, given by Catherine Faust’s and Emile Schmidt’s group and directed by Emile Schmidt '51. Included in the program was *Mr. Snoop Is Murdered*, a mystery production by Jane Nagel's group. This completed the programs for the year and we are all looking forward to more fine entertainment next year.

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STAGE DRESS—
"Have you a printing press to spare?" No this isn't a scavenger hunt. Marge Paynter and her sharp-eyed group were just looking for the props that make tonight's production so colorful.

Marjorie Paynter '51, chairman; Jacqueline Keller '51, Jeanne Heal '49, Dorothy Garris '51, Marjorie Taylor '51.

PROPERTIES—
If you want a Greek penny with Henry Morgan's head on it or if you'd like a chummy trained snake, Muriel Scholl, of play and operetta experience—and her properties committee can fulfill your whackiest wish.

Muriel Scholl '51, chairman; Catherine Faust '49, Jean Frederick '50, Janet Reinbrecht '52; Mary Ruth Muffley '50; Sally App '50.

PROGRAMS—
Webster vied with Hirschfeld cleverness and keen-eyed film to form this program. Jane Usher and her committee numbered words to a degree that would horrify Einstein, and consumed paper . . . but not enough to cause a shortage for finals.

Jane Usher '50, chairman; Ronald Frankel '50, artist; Raymond Tanner '49, photographer; Sally App '50, Mary Ruth Muffley '50, Fay Horner '49, Margaret Denham '50, Mary Jane Kraft '50, Donald Aikens '51.

LIGHTING AND SOUND EFFECTS—
With Al's three years' experience on and behind the stage and Emanuel's experience with the Summer Stock Theatre, we find collaboration to produce a well illuminated noise — with firecrackers — we mean. Hold on to your hats — this might prove to be a hot situation!

Emanuel Rosen '50, chairman; Albert Mazurkiewicz '50, assistant.
BUSINESS AND ADVERTISING—

It almost required a slide rule and Chem. 14 to find one's way through the maze of tickets and ads and everything else that confounded but did not confuse Don Aikens and his committee.

Donald Aikens '51, chairman; Frederic Leeser '51, Julia Barber '51.

PUBLICITY—

Versatility and originality—to say nothing of journalistic ability were combined by this committee to publicize our play.

Pierre Leroy '52, chairman; David Monjar '51, Doris Dalby '50, Isabelle Shaw '49, Dale White '50, Marjorie Justice '51, Susanne Dietz '51, Betty Keyser '52, George Klitsch '51.

STAGE—

Teasers were tormenting and the color wheel really wheeled around this bang-up group. If what they say about paperhangers is true—then Norman Weisler and his committee face a great future.

Norman Weisler '51, chairman; Albert Mazurkiewicz '50, Emanuel Rosen '50; David Monjar '51; William LeKerne '52, Bert Husband '52.

MAKE-UP—

"Art and Nature, thus allied, go to make a . . ." Gilbert would say "fill it to suit yourself." Anyway, capable Susanne and her committee did an equally experienced job.

Susanne Deitz '51, chairman; Nancy Jordan '52, Geraldine Navis '49, Aubre Givler '51.

COSTUMES—

Nimble minds and fingers worked together to make these costumes. The three hard-working experts of this committee find that it isn’t the easiest thing in the world to encourage a piece of cloth!

Jim Johnson '51, chairman; Marjorie Taylor '51, assistant; Mary McPherson '51, wardrobe mistress.
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