

The Programme

1966



Fonthonne College

Fine Arts Theatre

St. Louis, Missouri

Through the medium of the arts, man asks questions about himself, other men, nature, God. He confronts values and human situations.

In its student-oriented fine arts theatre, Fontbonne provides an opportunity for the students to be thoroughly involved in asking questions and in seeking to discover answers that hold on to eternal values and that make these values meaningful in today's world. Guided by the professional artist as well as by the academic instructor, not only drama majors but students in all departments can build each theater production from its inception to its eventual presentation.

The Fontbonne theatre program is another aspect of the total and balanced approach to higher education that characterizes Fontbonne College. As in the other phases of the Fontbonne program, the theater operations preserve the best in the arts and create new angles of vision.

Sister Ernest Marie,
President



Fontbonne College
presents
The Pulitzer Prize Winning Play

"J. B."

by
ARCHIBALD MACLEISH

with
DON GARNER ERNIE BERGER FRED KUPPINGER
and
SHEILA FITZGERALD

production designed
and lighted by
Thomas Baker

incidental music
composed by
Sr. Anne Bernard Joyce

production stage manager
Mary Lee Higgins

music conducted by
William R. Memmott

production coordinator
Sr. Mary Charity

the production was staged by Mr. Garner

INTRODUCTION

Two unemployed actors, one old, the other young -- Mr. Zuss and Nickles -- have been reduced to selling balloons and popcorn in an ancient circus which has traveled through the towns and cities of the earth, year after year, time out of mind, playing the Old Testament story of the sufferings of Job.

Dissatisfied, as actors often are, with the interpretation of the story, they make up their minds, late one evening when the show is over and the tent empty, to play it themselves as they think it should be played. Mr. Zuss casts himself as God. Nickles is cast as Satan. And the two take on themselves the wager of the Book Of Job; Satan's wager that if God will strip Job of everything he has, Job, the perfect and upright man, will curse God to His face.

And so they begin. But hardly has the action started when the old circus and the ancient tale prove to have a life and movement of their own. The Godmask and the Satanmask found in a battered wardrobe speak the lines of the Bible for themselves when an unseen prompter gives them their cues. And when the time arrives for Job to appear with his wife and children he is not called; he comes.

But it is not out of the Old Testament that Job appears to Mr. Zuss and Nickles but out of the American present -- J.B. not Job. And the Messengers Nickles sends to him to report the terrible disasters which are to try his soul are present messengers -- a pair of circus roustabouts dressed first as soldiers, then as newspaper reporters, then as traffic policemen, then as air-raid wardens. Also, the disasters they report, one after the other, are present disasters -- disasters which have occurred. And the Comforters, when at last they come, are modern comforters.

As for the end of the play, it belongs neither to Nickles nor to Mr. Zuss, but, as in the Book Of Job itself, to the courage of a woman and a man.

Archibald MacLeish

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| First Roustabout | Thomas Baker |
| Second Roustabout | Harry Bradley |
| First Prop Woman | Janet Nelson |
| Second Prop Woman | Joan Lander |
| Nickles | Don Garner |
| Mr. Zuss | Fred Kuppinger |
| Prompter | Eliot Miltenberger |
| J. B. | Ernie Berger |
| Sarah | Sheila Fitzgerald |
| David | Stephen Kuppinger |
| Mary | Sandra Nicholas |
| Jonathan | Matthew Kuppinger |
| Ruth | Angela Overkamp |
| Rebecca | Eileen Overkamp |
| The Girl | Mary Jo Elias |
| Mrs. Adams | Patricia Palliser |
| Mrs. Murphy..... | Paula Oberle |
| Mrs. Botticelli | Joan Lander |
| Miss Mabel | Bettsey Lutz |
| Mrs. Lesure | Janet Nelson |
| Jolly | Joyce Burton |
| Bildad | Harry Gorsuch |
| Zophar | John Eggers |
| Eliphaz | James Seitz |

Scene

A traveling circus which has been on the roads of the world for a long time.

The play is in two acts.

There will be a ten minute intermission following act one.

PRODUCTION

Production assistant Janet Nelson
Production Stage Manager Mary Lee Higgins
Stage Manager Deborah Hughes
Assistant to Mr. Baker Sister Rose Magdalen
Electricians Betty Maugeri
Sister Rose Magdalen
Wardrobe Marilyn Schmidt
Sister Karen
Property Master Barbara Weiler
Deborah Hughes
Sound technician Sister Maija
House Manager Adrienne Alvarez
Joan Gleason
Business Manager Michele Dunn
Production Photographer Robert Jackson

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Masks created by Sheila Kennedy
Jane Jokerst
Sharon Barrett
Teresa Toohey
Under the supervision of Sister Mary Scholastica

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Music recorded by members of the St. Louis University concert Band,
William R. Memmott, conductor

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WHO'S WHO

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH, the author. One of America's most famous poets Mr. MacLeish has won the Pulitzer Prize three times; for poetry in 1932 and 1953, for his play in verse "J.B.", in 1959. Born in Glencoe, Illinois, he studied at the Hotchkiss School and graduated from Yale University and Harvard Law School. In 1939 President Roosevelt appointed him Librarian of Congress. During the war years he was also Associate Director of the Office of War Information. He was Assistant Secretary of State in 1944-45 and Chairman of the American delegation to the 1945 U.N. London Conference which founded UNESCO. He was Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard from 1949 to 1962, and has served as President of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. At present Mr. MacLeish is a Simpson Lecturer at Amherst College.

ERNIE BERGER (J.B.), was born in the small town of Ratibor, Germany, which is now part of Poland. He attended the University at Breslau and during the German purge migrated to China, where for seven years he lived in Shanghai working in the theatre and appearing in many operas. After coming to the United States Mr. Berger worked for several years with the famous Pittsburgh Playhouse as one of their leading actors. He will be remembered by Fontbonne audiences for his two previous appearances on our stage in "Mrs. McThing" and "Dark Of The Moon."

SHEILA FITZGERALD (Sarah) is from Chicago where she attended the Mother McAuley High School. She is a major in deaf education here at Fontbonne. After graduate-study she plans to teach in this field. Miss Fitzgerald's interests include; theatre, journalism, Irish folk-singing and Rugby! She has been on the student council during her freshman and sophomore years. Last year she appeared as the Dark Witch in "Dark Of The Moon" and in the Children's Theatre production of "Last Of The Leprechauns."

FRED KUPPINGER (Mr. Zuss), remembered for his portrayal of Uncle Sid in last year's production "Ah Wilderness" at Fontbonne spent the summer as director-actor-teacher at Wisconsin State University. Mr. Kuppinger teaches drama at St. John's High School and also conducts a private theatre group for teenagers called - The Playhouse Of The August Teens. He has appeared locally with Theatre Impact and the Southtown Players. Son, Matthew Kuppinger, is following in his father's footsteps appearing for the second time in a production of "J.B."

HARRY BRADLEY (Second Messenger) is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, and is presently teaching English and speech at Parkway Junior High School. Mr. Bradley, last season appeared at Fontbonne in "Dark Of The Moon," and earlier this season in the highly successful production of "Spoon River Anthology" in our Studio Theatre. As well as directing for local theater groups Mr. Bradley has appeared in many productions. Some of his favorites were "Candida", "The Innocents" and "Death Of a Salesman".

SISTER ANN BERNARD JOYCE, CSJ (Composer), is an instructor of music at Fontbonne and received her M.A. from Washington University. She is currently studying graduate composition under Dr. Robert Baker and piano under Sister John Joseph. Listed in the 1966-1967 edition of "Outstanding Young Women of America," Sister has composed several works which have been published by World Library, Scribner and McLaughlin-Reilly. She has lectured extensively in the St. Louis area and has been featured on local television programs. Last season she appeared with Mr. Garner on KMOX-TV in the television premiere of Tennyson's "Enoch Arden."

THOMAS BAKER (Designer - First Messenger), hails from Arizona where he attended the University of Flagstaff and the University of Arizona in Tucson. Mr. Baker has for a number of years successfully combined his talents as theatre technician, actor and director. For three seasons Mr. Baker was a member of the Manistee Summer Theatre, where he met and worked with Dr. Madge Skelly who was the producer of the company. Earlier this season, Mr. Baker appeared in "Spoon River Anthology", and in December will appear in the Studio Theatre presentation of "Plays For Bleeker Street".

DON GARNER (Director - Nickles), as artist-in-residence came to Fontbonne last year from New York City, where he had been Production Stage Manager for the famous Circle In The Square Theatre. Mr. Garner, a graduate of the drama department of Los Angeles City College, started his career in Hollywood which took him from motion pictures, television, and night-clubs to a year-long tour of the Far East with Raymond Burr, in a special services show. Mr. Garner went to New York to appear in Jose Quintero's production of "Camino Real", and later toured for a year with the Elia Kazan production of "J.B." Later this season Mr. Garner will appear as St. Francis, a role he played in the original New York production of Thornton Wilder's "Plays For Bleeker Street".

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Studio Theatre II
presents
Thornton Wilder's
latest work

PLAYS FOR BLEECKER STREET

December 12, 13

8:00 p.m.

Medaille Hall

Directed by Sister Mary Charity

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS'
hauntingly beautiful play
SUMMER AND SMOKE

February 9, 10, 11, 12

Fine Arts Theatre

Reserved seats - Admission \$1.50 - Students \$1.00

Directed by Don Garner