

1966



STUDIO THEATRE I

presents

Edgar Lee Masters'

SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY

as adapted and arranged by
Charles Aidman

original music by
Naomi Caryl Hirshhorn
Charles Aidman

directed by
Sister Mary Charity, C.S.J.

October 10, 11, 13, 1966 - 8 pm

Studio Theatre - Fine Arts 214

This production sponsored by NFCCS

FONTBONNE COLLEGE
Wydown and Big Bend Blvds.
St. Louis, Missouri

EDGAR LEE MASTERS (1869-1950) had been a quiet and successful lawyer in Chicago for 24 years when his SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY appeared in 1915 and immediately rivaled Walt Whitman's LEAVES OF GRASS as the most controversial volume in American literature. SPOON RIVER ANTHOLOGY contains 244 miniature, unsentimentalized autobiographies of the thwarted souls - drunkards, skinflints, secret saints and private lechers, dreamers and idealists - he had known in his boyhood towns of Petersburg and Lewistown, Illinois, on the Spoon River.

The epitaph form which he uses in revealing their secrets permits the dead men and women to comment ironically on the words or symbols carved on their gravestones. His device of allowing men and women who had hated or guiltily loved each other speak for themselves lends substance to the mere recorded facts of sudden death, suicide or goodness wasted on the desert air.

The poems of Edgar Lee Masters were arranged in their present dramatic form by Charles Aidman and first presented under the auspices of the U.C.L.A. Theatre Group in California. This same production was also seen at the Booth Theatre in New York City during the 1963 theatre season.

THE PLAYERS:

Don Garner
Thomas Baker
Paula Oberle
Elizabeth Maugeri
Harry Bradley
Marilyn Schmidt

THE MUSICIANS:

Michele Dunn
Sheila Fitzgerald

THE PRODUCTION STAFF:

Deborah Hughes
Sister Rose Magdalen

THE DESIGNER:

Thomas Baker,
Technical Director

THE DIRECTOR:

SISTER MARY CHARITY, C.S.J., Chairman of the Department of Speech and Drama, received her Master of Arts degree from St. Louis University, and has done graduate work at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Before joining the faculty of Fontbonne College she taught for a number of years at St. Joseph's Academy.

Sister Mary Charity initiated Fontbonne's Experimental Theatre in 1965 with her production of Sartre's NO EXIT, and also introduced the Coffee House Theatre to the campus that same year. She directed the Fontbonne productions of THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST, THE COCKTAIL PARTY and a number of Children's Theatre productions including Sister Marcella Marie's LITTLE JUGGLER and THE LAST OF THE LEPRECHAUNS.

Sister Mary Charity was a former chairman of the St. Louis unit of the National Catholic Theatre Conference and also was secretary of the West-Central region of the N.C.T.C.

- - - - -

The LIGHTING SYSTEM for the Studio Theatre has been newly designed and installed by William R. Memmott.

If you would like to receive information about future programs and productions at Fontbonne College, please fill out this blank and mail or deposit at the door.

Name Phone No.

Address