

Adjudicator Praises Drama Festival Entrants For "Delightful" Performances

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Marks and adjudications for the evening performances are as follows:

CHORAL SPEAKING

Test piece: "The Cremation of Sam McGee"—King Edward School, Div. 2, Grades 5 and 6. Mr. Risk told this group that their performance was a very good example of choral speech from a large choir. He complimented the children on their choice of poem and said they gave a "live and dramatic interpretation, but could have used a little more sense of fun." Technically, they had a good variety of tone and tempo although the unison was occasionally off. Their sincere work and conscientiousness merited them a mark of 80, the adjudicator said.

DRAMA

"The Early Bird"—Terrace Little Theatre association; directed by Loreen McColl and Mary Juby: 82 marks.

Mr. Risk expressed himself as highly pleased with this play mostly because it was a "truly western play." In general the acting was good but the actors were too "confidential" for the large audience.

He said that Flora Mathewson as "Jane," a bookworm type of senior, was too mature and not "ecstatic" enough. "You should overplay your part to the point of humor," Carol Dale as "Audrey," an athletic type of high school girl also in love with her biology teacher, was not

forceful enough, the adjudicator said. She should have used more vigor. Going on to Bette Chasteauneuf, who portrayed "Beth," "the old fashioned type of high school girl," he said she should have played Audrey and Miss Dale should have played Beth. It was a case of mis-casting, Mr. Risk said. Miss Chasteauneuf had "guts and vitality and was a very good actress."

Jim Scollon as "Wetash," an old trapper turned in a very good performance and had an excellent sense of timing.

Ross Gillanders as the biol-

ogy teacher, needed more attack and effective word emphasis, the adjudicator said.

On the director Mr. Risk pointed out that the action of the play was too slow at the beginning but the actors hit the climax very well. However, he said the scene breaks were far too long for a one-act play. On the whole the play was "thoroughly" delightful, Mr. Risk said.

"The Dear Departed"—Booth Memorial High school; directed by Mrs. S. J. Dominato: 80 marks.

Mr. Risk pointed out that this

play was a classic one-act play about hypocritical and most unpleasant people, and needed a great deal of understanding "to put over." He said that he had seen it done by both students and adults and based his adjudication on the ability of the group he was judging, to cope with the difficult production.

Commenting on the individual actors' performances Mr. Risk said that Julie Prockter as "Mrs. Slater" gave a "very good performance within her own limits." She could have been just a little harsher. Ann Christian-

son as Mrs. Slater's daughter "Victoria," gave a "pleasing performance and was a nice contrast as she was the only 'nice' person in the play" the adjudicator said.

The part of "Henry Slater," read by Edward Turcotte who substituted for Derek Allen who was taken ill yesterday. Mr. Risk gave high praise to the boy's "intelligent and resourceful reading" and said that while he was writing some of his notes he forgot that the substitute was reading his part and not acting it. However, he said he

would not comment on Turcotte's acting ability.

The part of "Mrs. Jordan" played by Shannon Pallant was "nicely unpleasant" and could have been a little more spiteful, Mr. Risk said. He said Buddy Nauman as "Ben Jordan" was a good young actor with a good sense of timing. Stephen Bartlett as Abel Merryweather was too pleasant, and a little too intelligent for the role of the grandfather who used his wits more than intelligence.

About the direction of the play, Mr. Risk said that the

actors had been given a very good explanation of the play of "this comic flavor," which had a good pace and good setting. Chiefly for their efforts and achievement within their limits not for achievement as the author suggested, Mr. Risk said he was giving the play 80 marks.

SHAKESPEARE

"Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 2, Scene 22—Julie Prockter and G. P. Woodside: 78 marks.

Speaking of "Midsummer Night's Dream," Mr. Risk said that it contained "some of the richest comedy ever written and

the two performers missed some of "this comic flavor." He said Mr. Woodside as Demetrius started on "too high a pitch, and was too heavy with his lines. However, he said he gave an extremely intelligent performance, had excellent articulation and used a vigorous delivery.

Julie Prockter as "Helena" showed a great deal of intelligence and appreciation of Shakespeare's works.

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Opera Season Underway At Toronto

By Bill Ross

Canadian Press Staff Writer TORONTO (C)—Thrilling to the final dagger thrust, George Bizet's "Carmen" exploded a first-night audience Friday into a standing-huzzza of bravo that would have staggered opera-crazy Old Naples.

Toronto's seventh annual winter season by its Festival Opera Company is under way. With 18 performances scheduled for the next two weeks, the roster also includes Mozart's "Don Giovanni" to be presented tonight, and Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."

The critics were excited as they left the Royal Alexandra theatre. The audience was beaming. The musical and theatrical perfection of the performance once again were so astonishing that the general comment appeared to be: "Surely, the day of a full-time professional Canadian company is at hand."

Conducted by maestro Ernesto Barbi, whose baton is known from Milan's La Scala to the Metropolitan in New York and on to San Francisco, it was dynamic.

Applause marked all the familiar arias, curtain calls were numerous, and the orchestra had to take a bow before the fourth act.

The Met's Regina Renik made Carmen a deep-throated vixen, not above flashing a leg to gain a soldier. She was in fiery command throughout.

Jon Vickers of Prince Albert, Sask., and Winnipeg, was in turn a dashing, then pathetic, then savage Don Jose—the tenor corporal who destroys Carmen.



FROM OKLAHOMA TO Maine—Pretty, new film star singer Shirley Jones wears a flatman's cap and jacket on a small boat off the coast of Maine during location shooting for the movie, "Carousel." Miss Jones made such a hit with film-makers in her first screen role in "Oklahoma" that they put her in the second Rogers and Hammerstein musical film before the first one was released to the public.



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