

WILL BENEFIT B.C.

"Mama" Proves Success Of Workshop Experiment

By DICK AYRES

The Department of Education's Community Program's branch and the University of British Columbia's extension department can rest easy. Their experiment of a "drama workshop" with "I Remember Mama" as a test piece and the Prince Rupert Little Theatre association members as guinea pigs proved an undisputed success.

The "experiment" showed to the full that "I Remember Mama" was ideally suited for the only son in the family. Mr. Bird was a good father and a good husband. His philosophy matched Mama's and there was no conflict when it came to caring for the family. Buddy Nauman, in playing Nels seemed to relax the rest of the cast when he was on stage . . . he provided a steady influence with his calm manner and his excellent acting.

REVOLTING TRIO

Spite, jealousy, vindictiveness and selfishness were personified by Connie Chastney as the "possessive Aunt Jenny," Anna-Marie Ororno as the "whining Aunt Sigrid" and Joan Robertson as the timid, fluttery old-maid Aunt Trina, all sisters of Mama and loathed by the children and even more so by that "Black Norwegian" Uncle Chris.

Playing the role of his life, Adaire Moore as the elderly Uncle Chris turned in a magnificient performance both in the scene where he is comforting his great nephew in the hospital and when he himself is dying. A simple story with an equally simple plot "I Remember Mama" deals with the day-to-day lives of a Norwegian family in San Francisco possibly two decades ago. Yet the play with its problems of poverty, sickness, scandal and even death has depths that demand the utmost in concentration from the cast. At the same time there can be no tension from the exacting roles nor over-acting which would destroy the fine balance necessary to portray a family in its natural setting undergoing normal trials.

Since everyone played their parts without flaw so far as the audience is concerned, there can be no star performer. Without a doubt, as the story is about a "story" about Mama, Shirley Hill in the title role, gave the same strength to the performance as did Mama to her family. Her quiet determination that her family should have the best no matter what reverses it suffered was only equalled by her immediate acceptance of America when she arrived from the Old Country. Mrs. Hill sublimed her role without faltering from the moment of her appearance until the final curtain.

LEARNED LESSON

Equally superlative, with just as many, if not more, lines to carry, was Julie Prokter as "the dramatic daughter" who was also telling the story. How she learned that the drama she yearned to immortalize in prose was not in some fantastic plot from her imagination but rather from the moment of her appearance until the final curtain.

Minor roles were capably filled by John Robertson, 9-year-old Rolly McLeod, Anne Dero, Gennie Prokter, Bob Chidwick, Sherrill Cook, Marlene Purtua, Margaret Le Blane and Ted Haupt.

STAGE CREW WONDERFUL

However, a goodly portion of credit for the success of the production goes to stage manager Bob Hall and his huge crew of stage hand, and to Jim Cumming and Wally McKay on the lighting. There were 27 scenes in nine, all done in the dark and if any of them had been ruined the continuity of the play would have fallen flat on its face.

The end-of-stage and the well-decorated set, which showed fresh on the back of the house, was also the result of teamwork and a great deal of thought on the part of the Little Theatre personnel.

The heart-warming story of Mama will be presented again tomorrow and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. on both nights.

For the benefit of those who have not yet seen the play, we offer a special discount of \$1.49.

EASTER CLOSING

We will be closed from 5 p.m. Thursday March 29th until 8 a.m. Monday, April 2nd for the Easter Holiday.

All Coal and Oil Orders received before 12 noon

Thursday will be delivered on that day. For Emergency Orders Phone 2634

Philpott, Evitt & Co., Ltd.



CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

Committee to Assist On Broadcasting Brief

The city council will set up a committee to bring in suggestions for the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities in connection with a proposed brief the federation intends submitting to the Royal Commission on Broadcasting.

In asking for a local committee, Alderman T. Norton Youngs suggested that the group need not necessarily be composed only of council members.

* * *

In answer to an inquiry asked by Ald. Peter J. Lester at the last meeting of the council, J. E. Brown, deputy municipal minister informed council by letter that the city's only action in regard to a Community Chest here would be to make a grant toward such a united appeal.

Council's jurisdiction did not run to either setting up or operating such an appeal, Mr. Brown told council.

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Approved was a recommendation of the police and licensing committee asking that the present system of calling the ambulance remains as it is. Also approved was a recommendation that an advertisement be placed in The Daily News outlining proper procedure for calling the ambulance.

* * *

The Trades Licence By-Law will be amended to set the rate shown for liquor licence outlets at 20 per cent of the amount levied by the provincial government Liquor Control Board. Step was made mandatory. Mayor George E. Hills told council because of recent legislation passed at the provincial legislature.

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The city will again enter a contract with Dominion Directories for handling advertising sales and setting up "Yellow Pages" for the 1956 telephone directory on the same basis as the 1955 contract. Ald. Youngs informed council no other city could be found to undertake the job.

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Account of the Northern British Columbia Power Co., Ltd. covering repairs and maintenance of the Woodward lake powerhouse and dam showing the city's share to be \$5,750.55 was ordered paid.

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The council will investigate a request by Armstrong Agencies Ltd. to purchase a city owned lot. J. C. Georgeson appeared before council on the application on behalf of an undisclosed principal.

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The public works department

is arriving at the home of Mrs. Enridge, the guest of honor was seated in a gaily decorated chair and crowned with a halo of pink carnations.

The array of miscellaneous gifts, contained in a miniature house, decorated in pink, blue and yellow were then presented to Miss Strand.

Guests attending were Mrs. Jacob Strand, Gordie Strand, Mrs. Russel Ford, Mrs. Elizabeth Flanagan, Mrs. E. A. Enridge, Mrs. Donald Scherk, Mrs. Wilson Nyhus, Mrs. Joseph Wahl, Mrs. M. E. Rutledge, Mrs. George Dunas, Mrs. Gordon Waseud, Miss Yvonne Gifford, Mrs. Carl Glake, Mrs. Ben Ingram, Mrs. William McCreary and Miss Gloria Petris.

Friends attending with but unable to attend were Mrs. Charles Marmer, Mrs. Doris Graham and Miss Jackie Moorhead.

Bride-Elect Honored By Shower

Bride-elect Miss Joyce Sylvie Strand was feted Friday night when Mrs. Ralph Enridge and Mrs. Derry Roos were co-hostesses at a surprise shower in honor of Miss Strand's marriage to Harvey C. Youden of Alberni, April 29 in St. Paul's Lutheran church.

On arriving at the home of Mrs. Enridge, the guest of honor was seated in a gaily decorated chair and crowned with a halo of pink carnations.

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readers

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