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•1939•



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The Western Ontario Drama Festival

REGIONAL COMPETITION

THE DOMINION DRAMA FESTIVAL

THE SAVOY THEATRE

HAMILTON

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY
JANUARY 25, 26, 27, 28, 1939

ADJUDICATOR

GEORGE SKILLAN, Esq.

LONDON, ENGLAND

Evening performances at 8.30 precisely

Matinee Saturday at 2.15 precisely

—O—

At the close of each performance the adjudicator will
discuss the play presented and the audience is requested
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Western Ontario Drama Festival

THE Western Ontario Drama Festival is a regional competition of the Dominion Drama Festival which will be held this year in the Grand Theatre, London, during the week of April the tenth. The Western Ontario Festival is again confined to full-length plays and it is interesting to note that in all the regional festivals a larger number of full length plays are being presented this year. The final festival at London will consist of both full length and short plays in English and French and all invitations to take part in it will be in the absolute discretion of the Dominion Drama Festival Executive. Such invitations will be issued by the Honorary Director, Col. H. C. Osborne, after the completion of the regional festivals in March upon receiving the report of the regional adjudicator, Mr. George Skillan.

The plays being presented in the W.O.D.L. festival this year have been chosen from eighteen plays given as regular productions by the Western Ontario groups in their own theatres with Miss Caroline H. Crerar acting as preliminary adjudicator. In addition to the plays invited to compete at Hamilton the following presentations were given:—

THE BRANTFORD DRAMA LEAGUE — “Women Have Their Way,” by Q. and J. Quintro.

THE GALT LITTLE THEATRE — “Captain Applejack,” by Walter Hackett, and “The Unguarded Hour,” by Bernard Merivale.

THE GUELPH LITTLE THEATRE — “The Skin Game,” by John Galsworthy, and “Mr. Pim Passes By,” by A. A. Milne.

THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO LITTLE THEATRE — “Stage Door,” by Edna Ferber and George F. Kauffman.

THE LONDON LITTLE THEATRE — “The Bishop Misbehaves,” by Frederic Jackson, and “Here Will I Nest,” by Hilda M. Smith.

THE NIAGARA FALLS LITTLE THEATRE — “My Son,” by Martha Stanley, and “Alien Corn,” by Sidney Howard.

THE OWEN SOUND CIVIC DRAMA LEAGUE — “The Sea Gull,” by Anton Tchekov.

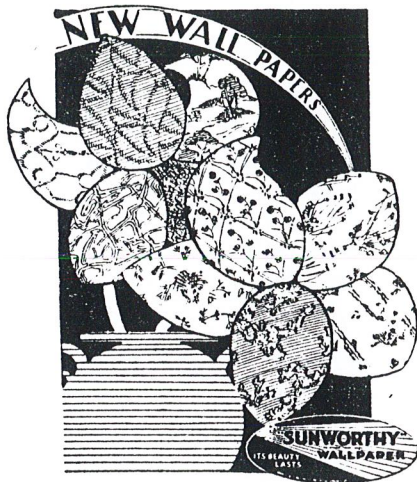
THE ST. CATHARINES LITTLE THEATRE — “A Bill of Divorcement,” by Clemence Dane.

THE WINDSOR THEATRE GUILD — “Petticoat Fever,” by Mark Reed.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The competitive nature of the performances at this festival demands that each contestant be given an equal opportunity. It is impossible, therefore, to permit any disturbance in the auditorium caused by the seating of late arrivals. Members of the audience are particularly asked neither to enter nor leave the auditorium during the action of any presentation. The curtain will rise promptly at 8.30 o'clock each evening and at 2.15 Saturday matinee. Members of the audience leaving the theatre between acts are asked to return immediately on being warned that the curtain is going up. The Festival Committee will appreciate every co-operation from the audience.

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George Skillan

THE adjudicator for all regional Dominion Drama Festivals this year is Mr. George Skillan, of London, England. He commenced his work in Nova Scotia on January 9th and after travelling across Canada to British Columbia and back will finish it at Toronto on March 18th. Mr. Skillan, by ability, experience and temperament, comes to Canada and Western Ontario particularly suited for his task. He has had many years of stage experience, not only in England but also in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, including eight years with Matheson Lang and two seasons at Stratford-on-Avon. Mr. Skillan has appeared and been associated with many celebrated actors and producers including Oscar Asche, Lily Brayton, Acton Bond, Edith Craig, Albert Chevalier, Malcolm Morley, Phyllis Leilson-Terry, the Duncan Sisters, Nancy Price, Sir Nigel Playfair, Godfrey Tearle and Lewis Cassin.

Among others he has taken leading parts in the following plays:—"Kismet," "Mr. Wu," "The Wandering Jew," "Carnival," "The Maid's Tragedy," "The Tails of Toshitomo," "My Old Dutch," "The Wild Duck," "The Dumb Man of Manchester," "Stigmata," "Topsy and Eva," "Electra," "Francis Thompson," "Beau Austin," "The Three Musketeers," "Pippa Passes," "The Player Queen," "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "The Emperor of Make Believe," "I Accuse," "The Boy David," and practically all of Shakespeare's plays.

In addition to his activities as an actor and producer, Mr. Skillan has been responsible for the archaeological details, heraldry, costumes and decor of many London productions and is said to be the best informed man in the London theatre to-day where historical matters are concerned.

Mr. Skillan is an examiner in elocution for the Association Board of the Royal Schools of Music and has taught and examined at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. He is best known on this continent for his excellent acting editions of "The Merry Wives of Windsor," "Othello," "The Merchant of Venice," "Henry IV, Part I," "Julius Caesar" and "Henry V".

DOMINION DRAMA FESTIVAL

LONDON, ONTARIO, APRIL 10-15

The Dominion Drama Festival finals are being held in the Grand Theatre, London, during the week beginning April 10th. While final details as to the programme cannot be sent out until the conclusion of the regional festivals the ticket sale will open shortly. As in previous years preference in the sale of seats will be given to members of groups competing in the final, regional and preliminary festivals. Arrangements will shortly be completed for the members of the W.O.D.L. groups to make application for seats through their own group. Enquiries should be made to the secretary of your group or the Dominion Drama Festival Office, Grand Theatre, London, Ontario.

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Wednesday, January 25th

THE PLAYERS' GUILD OF HAMILTON

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"OUTWARD BOUND"

By Sutton Vane

CHARACTERS

Scrubby	Fred Butler
Anne	Daphne Ratty
Henry	Gordon Riley
Mrs. Cliveden-Banks	Myrel Teich Siegel
Reverend Mr. Duke	Bernard Strong
Mrs. Midget	Irene Fairclough
Tom Prior	Frank Butler
Mr. Lingley	Reginald White
Reverend Mr. Thompson	Alex. Aitchison

Act I: Morning.

Act II: The same evening.

Act III: Two Scenes,

Scene I—Afternoon.

Scene II—The night of the same day.

STAFF

Director	The Reverend G. E. Graham
Prompter	Agnes Stewart
Stage Manager	Alan Kompass
Settings	Muriel Bostwick
Properties	Ann Beasley
Costumes	Norah McClemon
Make-Up	John Bell, Mary Craven

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French (Canada) Limited.

The dress worn in the first act by Mrs. Cliveden-Banks is being kindly loaned by the G. W. Robinson Co., Limited.

The hats worn by Mrs. Cliveden-Banks are kindly loaned by Ethel Ackerman, Milliner.

ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE FESTIVAL

Members of the competing groups, the festival committees and out-of-town guests will be entertained at tea on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 4 o'clock, in the 5th Floor Auditorium of the G. W. Robinson Company store, where the exhibition of Theatre Art is on display.

After the performance on Wednesday evening there will be a reception on the stage for the W.O.D.L. executive, committees, competitors and out-of-town guests. After the performances on Thursday and Friday evenings private supper parties have been arranged for the competitors on those evenings.

After the final performance on Saturday evening a supper party will be held in the Officers Mess of the 13th Regiment, Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, Armouries, James Street North to which the W.O.D.L. executive, committees, competitors and out-of-town guests are invited. Tickets for the Saturday evening supper party \$1.00, and the Sunday noon luncheon \$1.00, may be obtained at the Festival Offices at Room 312, Royal Connaught Hotel and the Savoy Theatre, and should be obtained as soon as possible so that adequate arrangements can be made.

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Thursday, January 26th

KITCHENER-WATERLOO LITTLE THEATRE

presenting

"A DOLL'S HOUSE"

By Henrik Ibsen

From a translation by William Archer

CHARACTERS

Nora Helmer	Lauraine Hughes
Torvald Helmer	George Lothead
Nils Krogstad	Edward Fehrenbach
Mrs. Linden	Elsie Jenkins
Dr. Rank	Harry Vipond
Anna, Servant	Olivia Schmuck
Ellen, Servant	May Kennedy
Ivar } The Helmers' Children	John and Mary Whaley
Emmy }	

SCENES

The entire action takes place over a period of three consecutive days in the living room at the Helmers' flat in Christiania, shortly before Christmas in a year in the late nineties.

Director	Leonard Baldwin
Stage Manager	Fred L. Dreger
Lighting Technician	Leonard Hopkins
Costumes	Aunna Lippert, Helen Henderson
Make Up	John Loutit

DISCUSSION GROUPS

In response to many requests, during the festival at Hamilton this year three meetings will be held Saturday morning for discussion under the following chairmen:

- (1) Direction—Mr. Winslow Benson,
- (3) Production (costumes, staging, lighting)—Mr. T. H. Wholton.
- (2) Administration and Organization—Dr. E. S. Detwiler,


These meetings will be held in the Royal Connaught Hotel (see further notices at the Hotel and theatre) on Saturday, January 28th at 10.30 a.m. A buffet luncheon will be served at 1 o'clock. Anyone interested is invited to be present and suggestions of matters to be brought up and discussed will be welcomed by the chairmen.

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Friday, January 27th

LONDON LITTLE THEATRE
presenting
"BAA, BAA, BLACK SHEEP"

By Ian Hay and P. G. Wodehouse

CHARACTERS

(In order of their appearance)

Hugo Bonsor	Neill Malcolm
Chickie Buff	Valerie Jones
Osbert Bassington-Bassington	J. T. S. Huyton
Hermia Wyndrum	Lilian Manuel
Rev. Aubrey Wyndrum	H. W. Auden
Harriett Knaggs	Ivy Parsons
Walpole Wyndrum, Third Earl of Tuckleford	Ken Greene
Oenone (his daughter)	Jayne Carlyle
Geoffrey (his son)	Harding Greenwood
Sergeant Gannett	George Morton
Sam Gannett	George Simpson
Mr. Tickle	H. D. Norman
Mrs. Tickle	Muriel Thomson
Mrs. Pottle	Winifred Hutchinson
Emily Pottle	Lillian Adams

SCENES

- Act I: Scene 1—Chickie Buff's Dressing-room, back stage of a London theatre, (a Summer night).
Scene 2—The Vicarage, Tuckleford, (the next morning).
Act II: The same. (A quarter of an hour later).
Act III: The same. (An hour later).

PRODUCTION

Director	Cara Malcolm
Assistant Director	Kathleen Willson
Stage Manager	Jack Saunders
Assistant Stage Managers	John Sullivan and M. D. Macauley
Garden designed by	Lady Swettenham
(Flowers made by Lady Swettenham and Cast)	
Setting and Properties	Kay Kennedy and Anne Macbeth
Costumes and Properties	Sally Greene and Lorraine M. Smith
Make-up	Catharine McC. Brickenden and Lorraine M. Smith
Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French (Canada) Limited, Toronto	

EXHIBITION OF THEATRE ART

Through the kindness of The Hamilton Art Association, the International Exhibition of Theatre Art is being held over for the festival and will be on view in the 5th floor auditorium of the G. W. Robinson Co. store. As the afternoon teas given by the Players' Guild are being held in the same location, members of the Western Ontario Drama League groups, who are cordially invited to attend, will have a convenient opportunity to see this splendid collection of original contemporary stage and costume designs by such famous designers as Aubrey Hammond, Lovat Frazer, Ernst Stern, Edward Carrick, Audre Boll, Lissim, Geyling, Holzmeister, Sliwinski, and others.

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2.15 P.M.

Saturday, January 28th

2.15 P.M.

SARNIA MUSIC AND DRAMA ASSOCIATION

presenting

"LADY PRECIOUS STREAM"

By S. I. Hsiung

CHARACTERS

(In order of their appearance)

Honorable Reader	Ernest Adams
Property Men	James McGuire, Ronald Hart
Chinese and Western Attendants	Alan Sirdevan, Harold McCullough
His Excellency Wang Yun, Prime Minister	Bernard Goulston
Madame Wang, his wife	Estiline Howard
Her Maid	Margaret Doohan
Su, the Dragon General, their eldest son-in-law	Lloyd Helliwell
Wei, the Tiger General, their second son-in-law	William Cooke
Golden Stream, their eldest daughter	Dora Sproule
Silver Stream, their second daughter	Flora MacDonald
Precious Stream, their third daughter	Jayne Chong
Her Maid	Ann Heffron
Hsieh Ping-Kuei, the gardener	Walter Munster
Suitors	Stuart Whyte, Roy Parrish, Leslie Isbister, Walter Prior
The Princess of the Western Regions	Pam Haney
Her Maids	Audrey Macmillan, Kay Glynn
Ma Ta {	Her aides de camp {
Kiang Hai {	Leslie Isbister
	Stuart Whyte
Warden of the 1st and 2nd Pass	William Cooke
General Mu, warden of the 3rd Pass	Lloyd Helliwell
Executioner	Walter Prior
The Minister of Foreign Affairs	Roy Parrish

SCENES

Act One: Part I—The Garden of the Prime Minister on a New Year's Day.
 Part II—The same. The Second of February.

Act Two: Part I—The cave of Hsieh Ping-Kuei. One month later.
 Part II—The same. Nine months later.
 (Intermission ten minutes)

Act Three: Part I—The Western Regions. Eighteen Years later.
 Part II—The Cave. A short time later.

Act Four: Part I—The Garden of the Prime Minister. The Next Morning.
 Part II—The Temporary Court of the King of the Western Regions. The next day.

PRODUCTION

Costume Designer	Esther Cawthorn
Costumes—Belle McCahey, Dorothy Gurd, Edyth Ahearn, Margaret Moor, Carrie McIntyre, Hope Millholland, Lydia Wooley, Marguerite McGraw.	
Head-Dresses	Blanche Chester
Make-Up	Lucie Cook, Jean Dunlop, Margaret Fuller, Dorothy VanHorne, Ada Helliwell
Properties	Anne Holbrook, Morrison Holbrook
Electricians	Charles Richards, John Evans
Settings	O. S. Pokorny, George Pokorny
Carpenters and Painters	Walter Tolles, Roy Parrish
Music	Robert Pacaud
Bookholder	Betty Musgrave
Stage Manager	Gordon Rogers
Directors	R. K. Stratford, Gale Gilroy

8.30 P.M.

Saturday, January 28th

8.30 P.M.

THE WINDSOR THEATRE GUILD

presenting

"NIGHT MUST FALL"

A Play in Three Acts by Emlyn Williams

CHARACTERS

The Lord Chief Justice	.....	Norman A. King
Olivia Grayne	.....	Elsie Wearne
Mrs. Bramson	.....	Nenone King
Hubert Laurie	.....	Maurice F. Yenn
Nurse Libby	.....	Florence Tomkins
Mrs. Terence	.....	Dorothy Graham
Dora Parkoe	.....	Dorothy McGuinness
Inspector Belsize	.....	Edward Tomkins
Dan	.....	Frank McCarthy

Winner

SCENES

Before the Play: The Court of Criminal Appeal.

The action of the play takes place in the sitting-room of Forest Corner, Mrs. Bramson's bungalow in Essex, England.

The time is the present.

Act I: A morning in October.

Act II: Scene I—An afternoon twelve days later.

Scene II—Late afternoon two days later.

Act III: Scene I—Half an hour later. Nightfall.

Scene II—Half an hour later.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French (Canada) Limited.

PRODUCTION

Director	.....	Hugh W. McDiarmid
Associate Director	.....	Ken S. Kersey
Properties	.....	Gladys Carmichael, Charlotte Lynch
Costumes	.....	Margaret King
Lighting Effects	.....	Bob McDermid
Prompter and Sound Effects	.....	Robert Meanwell

AWARDS — THE WESTERN ONTARIO DRAMA LEAGUE

THE following trophies, medals and prizes are competed for annually in the Western Ontario Drama Festival and preliminary performances. The names of previous winners are given.

THE HANNA SHIELD

The gift of Mrs. W. J. Hanna, Sarnia, to be awarded to the group obtaining the highest number of marks at the W.O.D.L. Festival. 1933, Players Guild of Hamilton. 1934, London Drama League. 1935, London Community Drama Guild. 1936, London Little Theatre. 1937, Brantford Drama League. 1938, London Little Theatre.

THE FULLER SHIELD

The gift of Mr. H. E. Fuller, Sarnia, to be awarded to the group obtaining the second highest number of marks at the W.O.D.L. Festival. 1935, Border Theatre Guild, Windsor. 1936, London Little Theatre, London. 1937, The Loretto Players, Hamilton. 1938, Players' Guild of Hamilton.

THE JAMIESON SHIELD

The gift of Mr. D. P. Jamieson, Sarnia, now awarded to the group presenting a Canadian play which obtains the highest number of marks in the preliminary performances of the W.O.D.L. Festival. 1934, Galt Collegiate Staff Players. 1936, London Little Theatre. 1937, Galt Players. 1938, Sarnia Drama League. 1939, London Little Theatre.

THE MEREDITH ACHIEVEMENT TROPHY

The gift of Mr. J. S. Meredith, London, originally awarded to the group making the greatest advance over its showing in the preceding festival as determined by comparing the markings of the adjudicators in the two successive festivals — now awarded for the presentation in the preliminary performances which in the opinion of the adjudicator shows greatest promise of future achievement. 1935, Columbus Players, Guelph. 1936, Galt Players. 1937, London Little Theatre. 1938, Kitchener-Waterloo Little Theatre. 1939, Guelph Little Theatre.

THE JORDAN MEMORIAL MEDAL

The gift of Mrs. A. D. Jordan, London, to be awarded for the best performance given by a man during the W.O.D.L. Festival (until 1935 given for the best performance). 1933, Betty Campbell, Hamilton. 1934, Carter McKee, Galt. 1935, Vincent G. Perry, London. 1936, Ernest Creed, Windsor. 1937, Bart G. Sullivan, Hamilton. 1938, W. A. Osbourne, Galt.

THE BRICKENDEN MEDAL

The gift of Mrs. G. A. P. Brickenden, London, to be awarded for the best performance given by a woman during the W.O.D.L. Festival. 1935, Lily Waghorn, London. 1936, Anne Board, Hamilton. 1937, Lauraine Hughes, Waterloo. 1938, Hazel Summers Kompass, Hamilton.

A PRIZE OF \$50.00

A prize of \$50.00 given annually by the W.O.D.L. Executive for the best play, judged as a dramatic composition, written by a person resident in Western Ontario. Originally the play had to be presented in the W.O.D.L. Festival or preliminary performances and the prize was divided between the author and the group presenting the play. 1936, W. Eric Harris, Sarnia and the London Little Theatre. 1937, Herbert J. Bassett, Galt, and the Galt Players. 1938, Phyllis C. Stratford, Sarnia.

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FORWARD WITH THE WESTERN ONTARIO DRAMA LEAGUE

Since its inception in 1932, the Western Ontario Drama League has steadily forged ahead until it is now celebrating the most successful year in its history by playing host to the final Dominion Drama Festival. The W.O.D.L. welcomed three new member groups this year—the Guelph Little Theatre, the St. Catharines Little Theatre and the Owen Sound Civic Drama League, and is now composed of 11 civic theatres with regular yearly productions in all of the principal towns and cities in Western Ontario having together a membership of over 7000 persons.

The W.O.D.L. has been a pioneer in many things—in admitting only civic groups, in arranging regular interchanges of productions between its member groups, in moving its festival from city to city, in requiring preliminary adjudications, and in confining its festival to full length plays. Now it has done away with entry fees and is charging all its member groups a membership fee based upon their membership and yearly receipts, in most cases the fee being worked out on the basis of ten cents per member or per member seat for those groups having a subscription membership, and for those groups not having a subscription membership, ten cents per person for the average number attending each regular performance the preceding year. The innovation has been worked out without difficulty and the W.O.D.L. is now assured of financial stability.

In the last six years since the festival was inaugurated the W.O.D.L. has had 19 plays invited to the final festivals and its members have carried off several of the individual awards. In 1936 the Bessborough Trophy and the Sir Barry Jackson Challenge Trophy came to this region for a presentation of a play written, directed and acted by W.O.D.L. members.

The W.O.D.L. and its member groups have done much to encourage the writing and presentation of Canadian plays. This year eight full length plays were entered in the annual competition, one of which, "Here Will I Nest," by Hilda M. Smith of London, was presented in the yearly programme of the London Little Theatre.

The future looks bright ahead, but no comment on the first seven years in the history of the W.O.D.L. would be complete without paying tribute to three members of the executive during that whole period, Miss Caroline H. Crerar, Mrs. G. A. P. Brickenden and Mr. D. Park Jamieson. To them in large part is the success attained due.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The prizes, trophies and medals given by the W.O.D.L. this year will be presented at a luncheon in the Royal Connaught Hotel, on Sunday, January 29th at one o'clock to be addressed by Mr. George Skillan. All members and friends of the W.O.D.L. are invited to be present. Tickets may be obtained at the Festival Offices, Room 312, in the Hotel and at the Savoy Theatre.

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**GEORGE SKILLAN, Esq.,
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Distinguished actor, producer, teacher of dramatic art and author of acting editions of Shakespeare's plays. Mr. Skillan is the adjudicator for the Dominion Drama Regional Festivals in 1939.

**MISS CAROLINE H. CRERAR
of Hamilton, Ontario**

a Governor of the Dominion Drama Festival and President of the Western Ontario Drama League. Miss Crerar was Chairman of the Players' Guild of Hamilton for many years and acted as adjudicator for the W.O.D.L. preliminaries this year.



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BASIS OF ADJUDICATION AT THE REGIONAL AND FINAL FESTIVALS:

Acting—including characterization, emphasis, gesture, and
make-up, diction and audibility 50 marks
Production—including team work, interpretation, tempo
and grouping 30 marks
State Presentation—including setting, properties, lighting
and costume 20 marks

In order that the members of the audience may try their own hand
at the task of adjudicating the plays presented to them, the following
chart is submitted. It will be interesting to compare your own judgment
with that of the adjudicator when he makes his final decision on Saturday
night.

Play	Acting 50	Production 30	Presentation 20	Adjudicator's Choice
1—Outward Bound				
2—A Doll's House				
3—Baa, Baa, Black Sheep				
4—Lady Precious Stream				
5—Night Must Fall				

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The many times you hear that question asked indicates the place that Bridle occupies in the estimation of people interested in dramatic art in Canada. Augustus Bridle, critic, on the staff of The Toronto Daily Star since 1921, is a national authority on all things pertaining to the theatre. You will be interested to read what Bridle says in The Daily Star.

DAILY STAR