

ONE FOOT IN HEAVEN is produced by special arrangement
with the Dramatic Publishing Co. of Chicago.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Staging PAYNE MORROW, MIKE MALONEY,
CHARLES DIXON, JOHN AYERS
Sound JOE BISHOP
Lights JIM PATTEE, JESSE WINNER, DAVE SPEER
Properties..... HELEN MAXWELL, ELISE RICHMOND,
MRS. JESSE WINNER, MRS. TOM ROSS
Costumes MRS. C. B. MARQUIS, MRS. ADOLPH CHANDLER
Prompter ANN SIMS
Make-up MRS. PAYNE MORROW, MRS. JAMES DEARE
Program MRS. BURLEY C. JOHNSTON, Jr.
Coffee Service BETA SIGMA PHI SORORITY
Box-office MIKE MALONEY, JERRY KERWIN,
R. A. DeLONG

★

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Patrick Shoe Store
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Ray Parkinson
The Ward Hotel
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Mrs. C. E. Laws
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The **WARD**
HOTEL

The Ward Hotel is happy to be
host to Fort Smith Little Theatre's
second performance of

Theatre-in-the-Round



The
Little Theatre of Fort Smith, Inc.

presents
HARTZELL SPENCE'S

One Foot In Heaven

Dramatized by
ANNE COULTER MARTENS

Directed by
FLORABEL K. PATTEE

Evenings at 8:15 P. M.

Matinee at 2:15 P. M.

March 22, 24, 25, 26

March 23

THE GOLD ROOM - WARD HOTEL

Fifth Season 1952



BACKGROUNDS AND BUILDINGS

Today in these United States the amateur theatre is a flourishing institution. Throughout the land, in universities, colleges, high schools, churches, and community groups, thousands of people, young, and those not so young, are participating in some form of theatre activity.

In spite of the widespread popularity of the motion picture and the radio, the living stage is more than holding its own. Scattered all over the country, hundreds of amateur groups are endeavoring, in their own small way, to make some definite contribution to the cultural life of the community.

The urgent need of most of these groups is an adequate theatre plant—a suitable place in which to work. Some have no theatre plant at all. They produce their plays in schools, in churches, or in rented auditoriums which were not designed for theatrical performances. Yet it is under such circumstances they must work; they must take it as they find it. They must make the wisest possible use of what they have, and hope for something better. Handicaps can be overcome. The history of many amateur groups has proved this again and again.

It may be of interest to you in our audience to know about some of the handicaps surrounding this particular production. After two o'clock Thursday afternoon we moved the set furniture and the properties into the Gold Room, set up the lights, and were ready for the first dress rehearsal at seven-thirty. Several businessmen interested in Little Theatre used Friday to erect the "risers" (platforms to you) and to place the chairs. Whatever time was left before final dress rehearsal was spent in "polishing" the set and lighting facilities.

If a line appears too deeply cut on a player's face, dear friends, please do not blame the make-up crew . . . it comes from strain and exhaustion! But all of us are happy to take on an extra line for the civic cause, and for the genuine personal satisfaction this creative endeavor brings us.

The abilities, the enthusiasm, and the cooperative hard work of the many individuals who have spark-plugged Little Theatre since its formation in 1948 have at last been rewarded with the attainment of that "hope of hopes," that "dream" of all amateurs—OUR OWN BUILDING! Well-I, perhaps not quite our OWN . . . there's the Mortgage. But the profits we have husbanded from past productions, plus the generous donations of many interested people, have enabled us to make a substantial down-payment on the building at 3800 North O Street. A great deal of planning, for the present as well as for the future, preceded this purchase.

It is with honest pride in our past accomplishments, faith in our future, and confidence in your continued support, that we place our name on the building. It will be dedicated to YOU—our patrons.

. . . The Building Committee.

The Little Theatre of Fort Smith, Inc.

presents

One Foot in Heaven

A Play in Three Acts

under the direction of
FLORABEL K. PATTEE

CAST

REVEREND WILLIAM H. SPENCE, a minister	ROY D. HIDY
HOPE SPENCE, his wife	MURIEL HOLDER
HARTZELL, their son	WILLIAM WEST
EILEEN, their daughter	ANN ROSS
DR. ROMER, a good friend	ADOLPH "DOC" CHANDLER
LOUISE, a pretty miss	LEE DIXON
MARIA, a Mexican girl	CELIA POLA
MOLLY, a crusader	PAT COLEMAN
RONNY, her brother	LAURENCE G. LUCKINBILL
LETTY, a pest	GINGER FRYE
MRS. SANDOW, a proud woman	ERNA KRONE
MRS. DIGBY, a choir singer	BESS HARRIS WIDDER
GEORGIE, her son	LARRY RANDOLPH
MRS. CAMBRIDGE, a church worker	ANN SIMS
MRS. JELLISON, a church worker	FAYE MARIE TAYLOR
MAJOR COOPER, a gruff man	DALE CRAMPTON
BISHOP SHERWOOD, a just man	JAMES W. PATTEE, Jr.

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Reverend Fraser Spence, prologue and narration CHARLES V. DIXON

PLACE: The little town of Laketon, Iowa.

TIME: About 1910.

SETTING: Mr. Spence's parsonage.

ACT ONE Scene One: Early afternoon in April.
 Scene Two: A rainy afternoon in June.

ACT TWO Scene One: An hour later.
 Scene Two: A Saturday afternoon in September.
 Scene Three: Afternoon, a few days later.

ACT THREE Scene One: Afternoon, a few days later.
 Scene Two: A Sunday morning in June of the following year.

PROLOGUE AND NARRATION: Pulpit of the Reverend Fraser Spence's church in Laketon, Iowa. Time: the present.

— Coffee will be served in the Silver Lounge during intermissions —

WHO'S A-ROUND

Though he has been diplomatic in his avoidance of any reference to specific circumstances, it is evident to his co-workers that Chaplain ROY HIDY has himself been involved in situations not unlike some of those which confront "Father" in this play. Captain Hidy, now stationed at Chaffee, entered the Methodist ministry in 1934. He and his wife are native Missourians, and they have two daughters.

MRS. PHIL HOLDER ("Mother") is one of several Van Buren residents Little Theatre is happy to welcome to its ranks. She herself is a teacher of dramatic expression, presenting both spring and fall recitals of her pupils. Mrs. Holder has been active in school and church theatricals, and was a former member of the Fort Smith Community Players.

PFC. WILLIAM WEST (Hartzell), whose home is in Kincaid, Kansas, staged and acted in college productions at the University of Kansas. He is a member of the University Players, and a charter member of the Theatre Technicians Fraternity. At the semester of his senior year at the University, he was drafted into the army, and has spent fourteen months at Chaffee.

"DOC" CHANDLER (Dr. Romer) toured several seasons in the United States, Canada, and Cuba, with shows out of New York and Chicago. He has played summer stock in Dallas, St. Louis, and Chicago, and his talents have been used in many local shows. With more professional experience than most of our actors, "Doc" asks to put in a plug for Flo Pattee, for he considers her one of the best directors with whom he has worked.

Several young women who are members of Sock 'N' Buskin at Fort Smith High School grace our stage in this play. ANN ROSS (Eileen) and GINGER FRYE (Letty) were last seen as college girls in "Goodbye, My Fancy." They are both active in high school dramatics. LEE DIXON (Louise) has had little acting experience heretofore, but is so enthusiastic she plans to continue dramatic studies in college.

PAT COLEMAN (Molly) has already begun to collect dramatic honors. She won first place in the State Interpretative Reading contest. CELIA POLA (Maria) has carried her interest in theatre arts with her as her army family has moved about the world. She began working in Little Theatre while in the Panama Canal Zone.

Now in Junior College, LARRY LUCKINBILL (Ronny), when a student in St. Anne's Academy, produced and directed several plays of his own composition. He is looking forward to a career in medicine.

Her vigorous characterization of Emmeline Randall in "Southern Exposure" made the reappearance of MRS. KENNETH KRONE (Mrs. Sandow) a demand performance. A native of Iowa, Mrs. Krone was active in Little Theatre work in Des Moines. She finds the group here, as they find her, hard-working, cooperative, and friendly.

MRS. BESS WIDDER (Mrs. Digby), during her residence on Long Island, played with the Fortnightly Players in "The Women," "I Remember Mama," and many one-act plays. Her debut here in "Southern Exposure," as the effusive, gossipy Mary Belle Tucker, was a delightful, tongue-in-cheek characterization.

LARRY RANDOLPH (Georgie) has "grown-up" with Little Theatre. Let him tell it! "When 'John Loves Mary' was in rehearsal, I lingered in the auditorium one day after Junior High assembly. Mr. and Mrs. Pattee came to work on the set, and promptly enlisted me to run errands. That evening I came back to watch rehearsal, then dress-rehearsal, then performance. Since then I have spent countless happy evenings as coke-runner, clean-up committee, and general handyman. Now I have advanced to the immortal rank of the actor. I guess the grease-paint's got me!"

ANN SIMS (Mrs. Cambridge) first came on-stage for us as one of the "Two Blind Mice." Since then she has been pressed into service for work with properties, make-up, and as prompter. And she is now a member of Little Theatre's board of directors. She, too, admits that theatre "gets in your blood." "You work hard, but it's creative — and lots of fun!"

Another Van Buren resident, FAYE MARIE TAYLOR (Mrs. Jellison) acted in plays as a student in Ouachita College, where she was a member of the Dramatic Club and took courses in public speaking and play production. She earned her M.S. at the University of Arkansas. For four years Miss Taylor had charge of speech and dramatics at Van Buren high school, and she is now history teacher and debate coach at Fort Smith Senior High.

DALE CRAMPTON (Major Cooper) says this is the first "ham-ing" he has done since playing the sheriff in "Lightnin'" in 1931. We were fortunate in finding him, in a desperate search for the right man for this role. We don't think he's a bit rusty, and we look forward to keeping him well-polished in future performances.

CHUCK DIXON (Fraser Spence) and JIM PATTEE (The Bishop) have a special message to the gentlemen in our audience. "We are running out of masks," they say. "If you begin to tire of seeing of faces assume so many roles, give the audience a break by coming down for try-outs for the next show." Chuck is the new president of the Board of Directors. Jim is chairman of the building committee.