

“Life With Mother”

BY

HOWARD LINDSAY

AND

RUSSELL CROUSE



Ann Arbor Civic Theater

LYDIA MENDELSSOHN THEATER

OCTOBER 18-19-20, 1951

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre . . .

Welcome to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's production of "Life With Mother." We hope you really enjoy the play and look forward, as we do, to our other productions.

This play is our first major production of the 1951-1952 season, but it is not our first activity. Behind us already are the organizational meetings of the summer, our annual "Corn Roast" when a melodrama in the old style was presented as featured entertainment, our successful season ticket and program advertisement campaigns, and the many activities connected with producing "Life With Mother."

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre provides a variety of activities for its members. This program lists the names of almost 75 different members who took part in one or more phases of this production. Our Workshop Theatre is now underway giving our members excellent training in acting, play reading, and production of one-act plays. Social meetings are scheduled throughout the season, culminating in our annual "Oscar Award" banquet. Work continues on costume and prop accumulating, and a program of physical improvement of our Workshop is well started. Our group is active in the Community Theatre Association of Michigan made up of similar groups throughout the state.

There is a place for you in this broad and varied program, and we are anxious to expand it to better suit the needs of Ann Arbor's theatre-minded citizens. Season ticket purchasers already have qualified for membership. They and others are cordially invited to participate in our program as members and with as much activity as they desire.


Ann Arbor Civic Theatre is organized and exists solely to provide the outlet our community and its citizens need for work in and enjoyment of all phases of theatre activity. Members are urged to take part in all activities, but they may choose for themselves in which and how many of them they will participate. You are cordially invited to join us and take an active part in Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.

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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR—TED HEUSEL

Mr. Heusel's wide experience and knowledge of theatre, together with his amiable personality, have made successful his many Civic Theatre productions. Last year our two comedies were each directed by Ted, and made enjoyable both to the casts and the audiences. Mr. Heusel is working on his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, mostly in the speech department, where for a number of years he has appeared repeatedly in their plays. Most recently there, he has had parts such as "The Ghost" in "The Enchanted," and the "Villian" in "Green Grow the Lilacs," in the summer season's work. Ted is an Ann Arbor boy who has really made a name for himself in theatre.

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CAST NOTES

ERMA REANY GRIFFITH (*Margaret*)—Earned her B.S. degree at Northern Michigan College of Education, Marquette, where she was a charter member in summer theatre. Mrs. Griffith is now teaching music and physical education in Washtenaw County schools. After five years in Ann Arbor Civic Theatre she has finally been induced to take her first part in a major production, rather than assisting in Stagecraft.

GLADYS HANSON (*Mrs. Willoughby*)—One of our newer members, was recently seen as "Beulah" in "Strange Bedfellows." Gladys is a fine arts graduate of Ypsilanti Normal and is also a member of the Methodist Choir and of Choral Union.

OTIS HARDY (*Father*)—A willing convert from the ranks of the professionals and a happy dosage to the spirits of amateurs. Mr. Hardy takes the male lead in tonight's performance. He is WPAG news director, well known to Ann Arbor, and a welcome addition to Civic Theatre. In last year's play "Strange Bedfellows," Mr. Hardy was the British character "Gifford." Men like him and the ladies go for him.

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EILEEN SCOFIELD (*Hazel*)—Graduated from Ann Arbor High School and Michigan State Normal College, was "Josie" in "The Singapore Spider." Eileen has been active for a number of seasons with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, behind the scenes, but this is her first major appearance out front.

JAYLEE DUKE (*Kathleen*)—is an Ann Arbor High School senior. Jaylee comes to her first appearance with us from Camp Fire Girls' and religious drama throughout her younger years. She has been selected for membership in Ann Arbor High School's A-Capella Choir.

ALGER CRANDELL (*Michael*)—is included in the cast to add his serious touch to the play. He has been in other majors and one acts and is perhaps best remembered as "The Stage Manager" in "The Torch Bearers" where his verosity was throttled down to three lines, even though he sat through an entire act reading the "Police Gazette."

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RICHARD J. (Dick) SHEW (*Clarence*)—Finished his high school work at Ottawa Hills in Grand Rapids and his college work at U. of M., and has since been an Ann Arbor boy. Dick has been in Civic Theatre for three years and took part in "Gentlemen On the Hill" and played "Hatthew" in "The Singapore Spider." This is his first major part.

DAVE SELLARDS (*Clyde Miller*)—The oldest continuous active member of Ann Arbor little theatres, a former president and long time board member. Dave has appeared in "Little Shot," "Drums of Death," "Easy Living," "You Can't Take It With You," "A Man Who Came to Dinner," "My Sister Eileen," "Man Who Married A Dum Wife," "Kiss and Tell," "All My Sons," "Silver Whistle," and "Dirty Works at the Cross Roads." Dave's acting, directing, and hard working have made him perhaps the outstanding man of the group. He was presented with his well deserved Oscar last season.

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JIM WESSINGER (*Harlan*)—made his Civic Theatre debut in last seasons "Strange Bedfellows." He has also appeared in "On Borrowed Time," and "Family Portrait," as well as in last spring's Affiliated Films production of "The Angry Boy." And don't think Jim isn't able to raise hob during rehearsals.

SHIRLEY LOEBLICH (*Vinnie*)—takes this lead with a background in several Ann Arbor theatrical groups. Shirley is assistant production director at WUOM. She has appeared for the University Speech department in "The Importance of Being Earnest," "You Can't Take It With You," "Summer Solstice," "The Winslow Boy," and "The Glass Menagerie." Shirley was coordinating director for the student players in "Finian's Rainbow," and has appeared with our own Civic Theatre group in "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" and "An Inspector Calls."

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JAY B. DUKE (*Dr. Humphreys*)—gained wide versatility with the city of Flint I. M. A. players and the Acme players. He will be well remembered as the "Bishop" in last year's "The Silver Whistle."

CARL CONRAD (*John*)—Well known to Ann Arbor audiences as the director of last year's production, "Laura." Carl, a member of the Board of Directors, has also played roles in "The Torch Bearers" and "The Silver Whistle," and is our authority on make-up in Civic Theatre.

EVELYN ROCKWELL GREGORY (*Bessie*)—A graduate of the University Speech Department, returns to Ann Arbor Little Theatre acting, after seventeen years absence. During those years she played many roles with the Kalamazoo and the Grand Rapids Civic Theatres. She was "Mama" in "Papa Is All," and "Mama" in "I Remember Mama." Evelyn has spent the last two years with us as an indispensable, working behind the scenes.

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RONALD MUCHNICK (*Whitney*)—is not new to the "Day" family, having appeared in the same role in the department of speech production of "Life With Father." Ronald's appearances include University productions of "Iphigenia" in "Tauris," "I Remember Mama," and "The Time of Your Life."

MABEL JONES (*Cousin Cora*)—This is Mabel's first appearance in one of our major productions. Our one act plays with Mabel included, were "The Flattering Word," and "Finders Keepers." However, Mabel has been important enough back-stage, for the last several years, to win for herself our last Oscar award, given for outstanding service to the Civic Theatre.

BARBARA CONLON (*Bridget*)—A new member of Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, finished her high school work in western Pennsylvania communities which offered her some acting experience before entering the U. of M. Barbara finished here in the School of Education, which offered further experience, and her teaching in the Willow Run schools led to her directing of the Children's Theatre there.

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PRODUCTION STAFF

- Production Manager* Nancy McGee
- Technical Directors* Jerry Scofield, Paul Christmann
- Set Design* Edward Pascoe
- Stage Manager* John Crandell
- Construction and Strike Crew* Bob Barber, Beverley Cleavinger, Howard Fox, Alex Azary, Joan Cowley, Jim Coomer, Jack Wynn, Dick Cutting, Dave Farrington, Ken Stone, Carl Connable, Gladys Christmann, Lucy Connable
- Lighting* Howard and Margaret Fox
- Stage Properties* Louise Kempf, Chairman; Dollie Freeman, Marguerite Del Toro, Dick Cutting
- Hand Properties* Jean Thorby, Elizabeth Shurtleff, and Jane Fahrner
Co-Chairmen: Loretta Tatro, Mary May Hamlin, Barbara Crandell
- Costumes* Charlotte Timm, chairman; Sandy Kessel, Aila Rosted, Blanche Kaufman, Caroline Crippen, Blanche Arner, Joanne Guthrie, T. Todd Jones.
- Make-Up Commitete* Carl Conrad, Chairman; Mrs. Gordon Smith, Robin Hall, Billie Beckwith
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"LIFE WITH

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DIRECTED BY MR. T

CAST

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

FATHER.....
WHITNEY.....
HARLAN.....
JOHN.....
MARGARET.....
CLARENCE.....
MICHAEL.....
VINNIE.....
BRIDGET.....
HAZEL WILLOUGHBY.....
BESSIE FULLER LOGAN.....
MRS. WILLOUGHBY.....
CLYDE MILLER.....
COUSIN CORA.....
KATHLEEN.....
DR. HUMPHREYS.....

THE TIME: AUTUMN

ACT ONE

The living room of the Day country

Time: Mid-afternoon. The

ACT TWO

Scene 1. The same Saturday

Scene 2. The same. Just

ACT THREE

Scene 1. The same. Sunday

Scene 2. The same. Late

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in three acts

MOTHER''

and RUSSELL CROUSE

DR. TED HEUSEL

CAST

(APPEARANCE)

.....	Otis Hardy
.....	Ronald Muchnick
.....	Jim Wessinger
.....	Carl Conrad
.....	Erma Reany Griffith
.....	Richard Shew
.....	Alger Crandell
.....	Shirley Loeblick
.....	Barbara Conlon
.....	Eileen Scofield
.....	Evelyn Gregory
.....	Gladys Hanson
.....	Dave Sellards
.....	Mabel Jones
.....	Jaylee Duke
.....	Jay B. Duke

ACT I IN THE 1880's

ACT ONE

Country home in Harrison, N. Y.
The last day of August

ACT TWO

Saturday afternoon
Just before twilight

ACT THREE

Sunday Morning
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PLAYREADING.....Gladys and Paul Christmann
DIRECTING.....Robin Hall

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THEATRE CALENDAR

"Life With Mother"—Major Production	October 18, 19, 20
Cast Party	October 20
Community Chest Drive Launching, Hill Auditorium	October 28
Theater Workshop Meeting	November 15
General Membership Meeting	December 13
Theater Workshop Meeting	January 10
"Death Takes a Holiday"—Major Production	January 24, 25, 26
Theater Workshop Meeting	February 14
General Membership Meeting	March 20
"Skylark"—Major Production	April 10, 11, 12
Theater Workshop Meeting	April 17
Oscar Award Banquet	May, 1952
Summer Theater Group	June, 1952
Annual Corn Roast	August, 1952

The above dates will be supplemented from time to time by many group meetings. Do not hesitate to write PO Box 87 or contact the Theater office, phone 2-4696 for details.



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BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS	Nancy McGee
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LADY WORKER	Mabel Jones
MAN WORKER	Ralph Beckwith
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OSCAR AWARDS OF FORMER YEARS

ACTRESSES	Phyllis Wright, Marjorie Stewart
ACTORS	Todd Jones, Kenneth McDonald
DIRECTORS	Marie Miller, Lloyd Kaiser
LADY WORKERS	Fran Benjamin, Mabel Jones
MEN WORKERS	Ralph Beckwith, A. B. Crandell
ANNUAL OSCAR AWARD BANQUET	May, 1952

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Civic Theater is a member of the Community Theater Association of Michigan and of the American National Theater Association and is in constant contact with the state association office at Battle Creek. Perhaps you were a member of a Little Theater group somewhere else in the state and are wondering about their activities and members. Please contact us if you are interested in reading the Little Theater Newsletter.

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To the Members of the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, we of the City of Ann Arbor again thank you for your efforts in bringing to us a very needed part of our civic development. Best wishes for a successful 1951, 1952 season!

WILLIAM E. BROWN, Jr.
Mayor

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