

FOR RELEASE:

IMMEDIATE

Mailed Sept. 29, 1986

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - "It's really a season of theatre detailing the human spirit, its hopes and frustrations, its successes and failures."

This was the comment from Dr. Timothy J. Lyons of Austintown, dean of YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts, and artistic director of University Theatre, announcing the 1986-87 theatre season.

"I think the selection of plays for our season holds the promise of offering an alternative to complement the other fine theatrical efforts going on in the Valley," Dr. Lyons suggested.

"As a university, we have a primary obligation to our students and the campus community to offer theatre that is challenging and not generally available. At the same time, our general audience demands from us productions of the highest entertainment values. And these objectives represent quite a challenge for our talented artists and students!" he added.

Housed in YSU's performing arts center, Bliss Hall, the theatre program will offer six plays in the coming year, beginning with William Shakespeare and ending with Gilbert and Sullivan.

Admission to the plays is free for YSU students with ID card; YSU faculty/staff, alumni and senior citizens receive substantial discounts. Season tickets are available from the box office.

This season opens Nov. 13 with the presentation of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," the most famous love story of all time. "This is a tragedy of circumstance as well as character, in which love is sacrificed to enmity,"

commented Dr. Dennis Henneman of Boardman, who will direct the play. He also noted that the mood of the play is unusually high-spirited for a tragedy.

Much of the excitement of the play is created by the thrilling fight scenes and swordplay, which will be staged here by the internationally noted Fight Master David Boushey. His residency is sponsored by the YSU Interface Program in Theatre.

Scenic design will be by Dr. Frank A. Castronovo of Boardman, lighting design by Michael Angelo Tortora of Youngstown, and costume design by Jane Shanabarger of Boardman. Dr. James T. Henke of Youngstown, professor in YSU's English Department, will serve as dramaturg.

"Romeo and Juliet" will run on Nov. 13, 14, 15, and 20, 21 and 22, in Bliss Hall's Ford Auditorium. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

In addition to choreographing and setting the stage combat scenes for this production of "Romeo and Juliet," Fight Master Boushey will instruct cast members in the basic elements of stage combat and safety, conduct a workshop on "Safety in Staged Violence" for area high school teachers, give a presentation on stage combat to persons from the Youngstown Playhouse, instruct selected YSU students in teaching stage combat, and be available for presentations to other community groups upon request during his three-week residency, Oct. 20 to Nov. 7, as part of the YSU Interface Program in Theatre.

Dean Lyons will direct the University Theatre's production of George Bernard Shaw's "Candida," opening on Jan. 8. One of Shaw's more pleasant comedies, "Candida" features an 18-year old love-sick poet gone ga-ga over the wife of a stuffy parson.

Candida appears to be the epitome of taste, a paragon of virtue, and graciousness personified. "But, is she?" Lyons asks. "That's what our production will explore." He added that Shaw seems to delight in this witty comedy vascillating between virtue and casuistry, leaving the theatregoer to puzzle over whether our values of marital bliss and the nuclear family are really all they're cracked up to be.

Scenic and lighting design will be by Dr. Castronovo, and costume design by Ms. Shanabarger.

"Candida" will be presented Jan. 8, 9, 10, and 15, 16 and 17 in Bliss Hall's Spotlight Arena Theatre at 8 p.m. There will also beaumatinee performance on Jan. 18 at 3 p.m.

The most famous musical to emerge from the Bertolt Brecht/Kurt Weill collaboration, "The Threepenny Opera," will open Feb. 19.

Based on John Gay's "Beggars' Opera," this "ballad opera" transcends cultural boundaries with Weill's unforgettable songs and Brecht's provocative critique of modern society.

Such colorful characters as the middle-class thief Macheath, Pirate Jenny, and Tiger Brown have become ageless, and audiences the world over have been thrilled, shocked, and moved by such songs as "Barbarasong," "Tango Ballad," and, of course, "Mack the Knife."

The play's director, musical director, and choreographer will be announced.

Dr. Castronovo will do the scenic and lighting design, and Ms. Shamabarger the costume design.

"Threepenny Opera" will run at 8 p.m. on Feb. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28 in Ford Auditorium.

"Waiting for Godot" by Samuel Beckett will open on April 2. This tragicomedy by one of the most noted playwrights of the 20th Century and winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, proved to be a tremendous personal success for Bert Lahr who starred in the original production. The story of the play--such as it is--involves two dilapidated bums who fill their days as painlessly as they can while they wait for Godot, a personage who will explain their interminable insignificance or put an end to it. As a testament about existence, the play presents a tragic view of life while it emerges as a brilliant, bitter comedy.

The director of the play will be Bentley Lenhoff of Boardman, formerly of the Youngstown Playhouse. Scenic and lighting design will be by Dr. Castronovo, and costume design by Ms. Shanabarger.

"Waiting for Godot" will run April 2, 3, 4, and 9, 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. in the Spotlight Arena Theatre. There will be a matinee at 3 o'clock April 12.

"Quilters," written by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek, with music and lyrics by Barbara Damashek, was nominated for a Tony Award on Broadway and presented at the Edinburgh Festival.

Combining music, dance and scenes of vivid dramatic intensity, "Quilters" pays eloquent tribute to the courage and spirit of our nation's pioneer women.

Ostensibly the story of a pioneer woman and her six daughters, the play blends a series of interrelated scenes into a rich tapestry which caputres the challenges and rewards of frontier life.

Dr. Frank A. Castronovo will direct the play as well as doing the scenic and lighting design. Jane Shanabarger will design the costumes. Music director and choreographer will be announced. "Quilters" will open April 30, and continue May 1, 2, and 7, 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. in Ford Auditorium.

The University Theatre season will conclude with the most successful and enduring of Gilbert and Sullivan's operettas, "The Mikado."

In this seeming period piece, Japanese costumes are merely a cloak for a satire which Gilbert directed considerably closer to home: Victorian England. The "criminals" for whom the Mikado plans punishment include music-hall singers,

patent medicine quacks, and billiard sharks. Although Sullivan used an authentic Japanese tune, the delightful music follows his own accepted "Savoy" style.

"The Mikado" memains a perennial favorite with audiences throughout the world, and will be presented in Ford Auditorium in cooperation with the Dana School of Music May 21, 22, and 23 at 8 p.m., with a matinee at 3 o'clock May 24.

Dr. Donald E. Vogel of Poland will direct the play, and Michael D. Gelfand of Boardman will conduct the orchestra. Scenic and lighting design will be by Dr. Castronovo, and costume design by Ms. Shanabarger. The choreographer is to be announced.

Both Ford Auditorium and the Spotlight Arena Theatre in Bliss Hall are easily accessible and can accommodate handicapped patrons. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue Parking Deck for \$1.

Admission to University Theatre productions is by reserved seat ticket only.

Tickets may be reserved by calling the University Theatre Box Office (216) 742-3105.

Box Office hours are 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays two weeks prior to each opening performance. Because of heavy demand for tickets, advance reservations are strongly recommended.

The price for tickets to the general public is \$5 per performance for plays ("Romeo and Juliet," "Candida," "Waiting for Godot"), and \$7 per performance for musicals ("The Threepenny Opera," "Quilters," "The Mikado"). Special rates for non-University students, senior citizens, and groups are available.

Season coupon books for all six productions may be purchased for \$25 (senior citizens and YSU alumni for \$15) by contacting the University Theatre Box Office.

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Contact: Bob McGill

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YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio - Dr. Daniel Fader, educator and author, will be Youngstown
State University's Eminent Educator Lecturer as a part of the School of Education's
"In-Service Day" Oct. 10 at Austintown Fitch High School.

His topic will be "The New Literacy: What It Is and What We Can Do About It."

The day-long teacher/educator program, comprised of concurrent workshop sessions, is a cooperative effort of YSU's School of Education and some 500 Mahoning County teachers and administrators.

Dr. Fader is nationally recognized for his influence on reading instruction and literacy curriculum.

Currently an English professor at the University of Michigan, Dr. Fader has had several articles and books published, including <u>Hooked on Books</u> and <u>Naked</u> Children.

Dr. Fader received both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Cornell University and his doctoral degree from Stanford University.

Dr. Fader will also open YSU's Special Lecture Series on Oct. 9 with his presentation, "Love as Attention: How to Learn by Listening to Children."

Those speaking at the opening of the "In-Service Day" program at 8:30 a.m. will be Josephine Willison of the Austintown faculty; Ronald Kendall, superintendent of Mahoning County Schools; and Dr. David Ruggles, dean of YSU's School of Education.

Presenters for the program include five YSU faculty members: Dr. Chris Faiver and Dr. Jan Gill-Wigal, Counseling Department; Dr. Janet Beary, Elementary Education; Dr. Pietro Pascale, Foundations of Education; and Dr. Mark Kittleson, Health and Physical Education.

The Eminent Educator Lecturer Series is sponsored by YSU's School of Education.

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The Eminent Educator Lecturer Series is sponsored by YSU's School of Education.

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**BULLETIN NO.: 7** 

DATE: Period of September 24, 1986 through November 30, 1986

# UNDER

-PLEASE POST-

## CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

The \$12 million renovation of Ward Beecher Science Hall, now in its third year, is continuing and should be completed by Spring 1987.

While safety fences have been erected around the north, east and west sides, caution should be taken when walking near the construction area.

Work on the south end, including entrances from the east and west, has been completed and the YSU Planetarium is back in operation.

## ANNEX WILL HOUSE INSTITUTE

The North Annex on Spring Street has been closed during the summer for major renovation and is expected to reopen by November. The facility will consolidate and house YSU's Public Service Institute, which includes Cushwa Center for Industrial Development, Center for Urban Studies, Center for Engineering Services and Center for Human Resources Development. An integral part of the work is complete renovation of the heating and cooling system at the Alumni House.

# CLASSROOM, LAB IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULED

The first phase of a classroom and laboratory upgrading program will begin soon, concentrating on Cushwa Hall, DeBartolo Hall and Williamson Hall. Classrooms and labs will be temporarily relocated for this work, which includes room modifications, lighting changes, upgrading of chalkboards, tackboards, ceiling materials, wall colors and finishes, floor covering, drapery, etc., to improve environmental conditions in instruction areas.

The work will be coordinated to minimize disruption and inconvenience of academic use of the rooms and building occupants.

#### CODE COMPLIANCE

Construction will begin shortly on the Code Compliance program, a campus-wide renovation with continued emphasis on life/safety factors that improve building standards under the Ohio Basic Building Code. Included are building access, standpipe systems, fire enclosures, fire suppression systems, emergency lighting and elevator controls. Buildings involved include School of Education, DeBartolo Hall, Cushwa Hall, Williamson Hall, Maag Library and Beeghly Physical Education Center.

Work will be conducted to minimize disruption and inconvenience.

Caution is urged when going by areas where work is under way.

#### MAJOR BLISS PROJECT TO START

Bids will be received this fall and construction is to begin in the spring for a \$2.9 million renovation and addition to Bliss Hall. This is the first phase of a multi-phase project necessary to complete all of the program objectives.

A two-story addition, located at the southeast corner near Ford Theatre, will include space for the Ceramic and Sculpture Department to relocate many of its classes from Clingan-Waddell Hall on Rayen Avenue back to Bliss. Additional space will also be provided for the scene/paint shop, faculty/staff lounge, theatre dress and make-up rooms. The renovation will also include functional and accoustical improvements to costume design, Experimental Theatre, Recital Hall, the ticket office, Speech, Communication and Theatre Department offices, the Art Gallery and vending area. The improvements will include fire/tornado alarm system, additional student lockers, Code Compliance, energy conservation and humidity control, and improved interior finishes.

## MUSEUM GROUNDBREAKING SET

Bids were received for site clearing and groundbreaking will be at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 1 for the Ohio Historical Society's Industrial Historical Museum between the University and Downtown Youngstown. It will be located on the west side of Hazel Street between Wood and Commerce Streets across from the Cathedral. Work on the main building will begin in the spring of 1987. The facility will house a diversified museum/educational research archival program to preserve and promote the industrial heritage of the Mahoning Valley. It will be operated by the Ohio Historical Society. YSU is involved in administering the design and construction. The project budget is \$4.3 million and is designed by architects Raymond Jaminet and Michael Graves.

## WICK-POLLOCK START NEAR

The Wick-Pollock Inn project is expected to start during October and be completed in September 1987. It includes historical renovation of the Pollock House plus a similar style addition resulting in a handsome 80-room community-University inn.

# CAREER SERVICES BACK IN JONES

Renovations in Jones Hall and Tod Administration Building are nearing completion, and Career Services has moved back to Jones Hall from Tod basement.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS**

Upcoming projects include continued demolition of properties in the Smokey Hollow area around Walnut Street, masonry restoration to Jones Hall, improvements to the track and tennis courts, Maag Library improvements, renovations at the Physical Plant, energy renovations to the School of Education, and preparatory work on an underground chilled water storage facility by the Central Utility Plant by the M-20 Parking Lot.

BE SAFE-BE CAREFUL!