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BACK STAGE

You have just returned from the Theatre and the conversation is about the play you have just seen, you discuss the characters, the plot, the way the actors handled themselves on stage, but have you ever discussed one of the most important phases of Theatre, the back stage crew, the set designer, and each and everyone that contributes toward the success of the play? You probably haven't, so we would like to give you a little insight into just what happens. The phase that is really the beginning of backstage work is the designing of the set. The set must not only follow the theme of the play but also be adaptable to the theatre in which the play is given and to the group's facilities. In order to accomplish all of this the set designer must have a keen sense of color and creative ability so that the actor will feel at home and at ease on stage each night of the performance.

The Lighting crew, Makeup, Costumes and Properties are all coordinated, in that each must complement the other. Proper makeup under certain lights, the right color of costume, Properties (Furniture and hand props) that are in keeping with the play's period, all of these things are taken into consideration when a set is designed.

Marie Cooper, our Set Designer for High Ground is a graduate of Goodman Memorial Theatre, and we are sure that you will very vividly remember her sets for Angel Street, Born Yesterday, Taming of the Shrew and The Happy Time.

We have used Set Designing, one of many jobs, merely as an illustration, to further acquaint you with the back stage crew that is needed for a successful play.

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MAY 23, 24, 25, 26, 1956

HIGH GROUND

By Charlotte Hastings
Directed by Ella Heimbrodt
Set Design by Marie Cooper

THE CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

Nurse Phillips	Jan Seeds*
Nurse Brent	Irene Smith*
Sister Josephine	Lois Petersen
Willy Pentridge	Keith Wenzel
Sister Mary Bonaventure	Virginia Harris
Dr. Jeffreys	Frank Brockway
The Mother Superior	Eleanor Schmidt
Melling	Herb Nadelhoffer
Sarat Cairn	Nancy Charpentier
Miss Pierce	Betty Groenveld*
Martha Pentridge	Mary Ann Jensen*

*New to our cast.

The Production of this play is by Special Arrangement
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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play takes place in the great hall of the Convent of Our Lady of Rheims in Denzil St. David, a village some miles from Norwich, England. The time is the present.

- Act I. About 6 p.m.
- Act II. Scene 1: Shortly after.
Scene 2: The next evening.
- Act III. Scene 1: Next afternoon.
Scene 2: Three hours later.

Intermission between each act.
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PRODUCTION STAFF FOR HIGH GROUND

PRODUCTION MANAGER John Thies
SET CONSTRUCTION Robt. Jensen, Alex Burger, Marc Ogden,
George Hansen, William Harris, Ron Holous
SET PAINTING Marie Cooper, Margaret Burger, Edveta Wolf
COSTUMES Mary Schultz, Edythe Brearly, Edveta Wolf,
Aleta Bishop, Ginny Marcum
PROPERTIES Nancy White, Aleta Bishop, Laura Grant, Margaret
Reimen, Jeanne Hansen, Marcia Wille
MAKEUP Jeanne Hansen, Nancy White
LIGHTS George Hansen, Robt. Jensen
SOUND James Straiton
STAGE MANAGER Eldon Corbin
TICKET SALES Harry Cooper, Virginia Harris, Eldon Corbin,
Frank Brockway, Nancy Charpentier
HOUSE MANAGERS Jeré Marcum, Marc Ogden
PUBLICITY George White, Peggy Cole
Ellen Brockway, Lois Petersen
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Virginia Seda, Connie Groves
PROGRAM Jeanne Hansen, Margaret Burger, Edveta Wolf

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THEATRE ACTIVITIES

High Ground closes Civic Theatre's season until September, but this coming summer will find many of our members busy with two major projects. Civic Theatre is very proud and happy to announce that they will be the sponsor and coordinator of the "TALENT SHOW" for the Fall Festival in September. Many hours will be spent on making this a full scale production. Details on entry and participation will be announced at a later date, so watch the REPORTER.

Civic Theatre has been asked by the Chamber of Commerce to be a part of the program this summer during the Band Concert series. Hope that many of you regular Theatre goers will catch our act. We are planning something very special.

October will bring forth our annual Open House, and of course you are all cordially invited to attend. Invitations will be sent to our regular mailing list and there will also be an announcement in the REPORTER.

If you have any inquiries concerning any of the above activities don't hesitate to call our secretary, Jeanne Hansen, Downers Grove 5951-R evenings and she will be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Connie Groves, John Thies

FOOTLIGHT REMINISCING

The seasons we are remembering in this program were experimental in both the type of shows we presented and the manner in which we presented them.

During the 1951-52 season we gave the first two shows of the season in the Tivoli theatre. Gil Davis was president that season and we opened with, "Arsenic and Old Lace". This was followed by "Laura" which was double featured with a movie. The season closed by the presentation of "Born Yesterday" . . . back in the High School auditorium. This show proved to be so successful we found it necessary to give a repeat performance in June.

The 1952-53 season brought Elon Wolf in as president and opened with the "Curious Savage". The second show was probably our most ambitious enterprise to date; a stylized production of "The Taming of The Shrew". Downers Grove showed its appreciation of the classics by turning out in great numbers to see it. We closed that season with a romantic comedy, "The Legend of Sarah", which was a two set production.

The last two shows of the season offered the group a challenge in requiring an unusual amount of research on costumes and sets in order to achieve the proper authenticity.

ACROSS THE FOOTLIGHTS

Once again we are closing the theatre season in Downers Grove. This year it leaves us with a good feeling. It was a well balanced season, which offered romantic comedy in "The Moon Is Blue"; psychological drama in "Craig's Wife"; and suspense in "High Ground". You, our audience, responded by purchasing more season tickets than in any previous year.

Enclosed in your program you will find a coupon reserving your season tickets for next year. Printed above this coupon is the slate of plays we plan to present during the 1956-57 season.

If you are interested in attending next year's plays it would be a great help to our ticket sales volunteers to have your reservations on hand. Therefore, if you will leave your reservation at the cloak room it will be turned over to our ticket chairman, Harry Cooper.

If we can get enough reservations to give us an indication as to the size of our audiences next year, we may be able to spend our off-season time, during the summer, trying to work out a solution to your problems. We are well aware of the poor visibility in sections of this theatre and are concerned over your difficulties in this respect.

We have enjoyed having you in our audience this year and it has been rewarding to do these shows for you. Next season we hope you will again be sharing the theatre season with us.

1956-57 SEASON

SABRINA FAIR

LOST HORIZON

MY THREE ANGELS