

Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Introduction to Florence Locke's Pageant Recital of "John Brown's Body,"
by Stephen Benet

Date: January 10, 1935

Location: O-Friends-1975-1

Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Ladies:--

My task of introduction, this afternoon, is a remarkably easy one. Because, usually, you see in introducing a program of this sort, you have to pay some attention to the author. He or one of his relatives is apt to be lurking in the audience--and, if he's a normal author, he probably has his little pencil out, ready to take notes on what you say about him. And, if you don't say enough--well authors are like elephants--they never forget. But, fortunately, this afternoon, we're not going to have any trouble of this sort. My disinterest in the author of the work you are going to hear is complete and I can devote my entire attention to Miss Locke.

A great many people write poetry--very few can read it or speak it well. And that is a pity. For poetry is not something to be read with the eye alone, it is something to be heard with the ear as well. When you read words on a page--unless you can hear them sing in your mind as well--you have only grasped half the intent of poetry. But where this is generally recognized where the kindred art of music is concerned, it is not so generally recognized with verse. It is has always been my thought that we needed great speakers and sayers of verse, exactly as we need great interpretative musicians--to give us not only the words but the music behind the words. Nor should this speakers and readers be necessarily poets themselves --any more than an interpretative musician should be per se a composer.

For some years now, Miss Florence Locke has been doing exactly this--and a very interesting and salient thing it is. She has been presenting, both in this country and in England, programs of ~~program~~ poetry--poetry as a living thing to be spoken aloud. To this task she has brought, not only the gifts of trained voice and presence but a spirit of genuine interpretation which is a rare thing. A difficult thing, as well. You have all heard musicians who played every note correctly and yet gave you very little of the real music. That is not the case with Miss Locke. She brings both technical skill and inner comprehension to the work.

I think that is a fine thing to do--and that is the reason I am here today--not because she has selected a portion of my own work to give you this particular afternoon. It seems to me that to create a living interest in poetry by speaking it finely, is to be very much of a poet. I shall therefore introduce her to you, not as a reciter--that's a very dreary word--nor even as an actress--but as a true and creative interpreter in the field of poetry. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Miss Florence Locke.

Stephen Vincent Bened

Mr. Bened came to "Bronze Horses" - A. W. A. on
Sunday - Jan. 6 - 1935 - hence this
introduction on Jan 10 - 1935 - at Colony Club.

First week
in January I
did "Hedge Island"
for Mrs. Morgan
at Colony Club
and
"Sea Blues Blood
Red"
for Mrs. Fred.
Longfellow
at her home
preparatory
to John Brown
on Jan. 10.

32th Court -
American Season
1934-1935

Will you kindly be a patroness of Miss Florence Locke's Pageant Recital
of "JOHN BROWN'S BODY" - "The Civil War Begins".

In her role of interpreter of the great English speaking authors
Florence Locke was recently entrusted in England by Edith Craig
with the famous Shakespeare lectures arranged by her mother - Ellen Terry.

Miss Locke will be introduced by the author - Stephen V. Benet.

The recital will be held in the Ballroom of the Colony Club,

51 East 62nd Street, New York City

on Thursday afternoon, January 10th, 1935, at three P. M.

The entire receipts are for the benefit of
the Baby Clinic of the American Colony of Jerusalem.

Dr. John H. Finley will preside.

Through the courtesy of

Mrs. Harry R. Baltz
Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow
Mrs. Junius Spencer Morgan
Mrs. Egerton L. Winthrop

and under the patronage of

Mrs. John H. Finley
Mrs. Alfred A. Fraser
Mrs. Philip LeBoutillier
Mrs. Roswell Miller
Mrs. Spencer Van B. Nichols
Mrs. William H. Vanderbilt

Tickets at \$2.50 each, may be obtained from
Mrs. Frederick W. Longfellow, 45 East 66th Street.

Dummy has gotten
Hall ready - very
Jussy Managress
and swarm of
Boaters doing
everything wrong
Stage small but
on the whole
affair fair -
Lonely Daddle
lent by Gen. Barnes
to Mrs. Junius Morgan
Gen. Barnes father
used at Gettysburg
and was killed
there.
Large audience
and on the whole
very enthusiastic
Mr. Benet's introduction
by John H. Finley
Mr. Benet's speech
lonely -
on next page

hauser'
ented at
opolitan

formance Is
one of Its
ions Here

Praised

ause;
ductor

n
"Tann-
a House

ofmann
elchoir
Tibbett
Clemens
Gabor
ltrinieri
s Wolfe
ehmann
onetzni
a Clark
e Ballet
atrice

odanzky
lo Setti
etal Jr.

us of
l odds
senta-
opoli-
e have
vilege
ano in
with
n less
rsona-
uld be
allure-
nt. To
re in
cond
per-

NEWS of the THEATERS

New Play by Bourdet Will Be Offered This Season; 'Dodsworth' to Go on Tour

A new play by Edouard Bourdet, author of "The Captive," "The Sex Fable," "Best Sellers" and others, will be presented here this season by Feodor Rolbein, English producer, it was announced yesterday. Rolbein is one of two brothers who constitute the theatrical firm of Rolbein & Rolbein with offices in the Empire Theater. The new Bourdet play is "Les Temps Difficiles," and recently closed in Paris after an engagement of more than a year. It has been adapted by Louis Bromfield, who is on his way here with the third act from Europe. Casting is now going forward.

Ruth Draper's Program

The Ruth Draper program for tonight at the Ethel Barrymore Theater will include "A Board of Managers Meeting," "A Dalmatian Peasant in the Hall of a New York Hospital," "A Debutante," "A Class in Greek Poise," "Three Breakfasts" and "In a Church in Italy." At the Forty-fourth Street Theater Walter Hampden will present "Richelieu."

"Within the Gates" to Tour

Bushar and Tuerk have decided to end the engagement of "Within the Gates" at the National Theater a week from Saturday and take the play on tour. The Sean O'Casey drama opened October 22, and the closing performance will be the 101st. It will open in Philadelphia on the 14th and after that engagement will visit Boston, Providence, Springfield, Hartford, New Haven, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Toronto and Chicago. The present company, headed by Lillian Gish, Bramwell Fletcher, Moffat Johnston and Mary Morris, will tour.

Lillian Gish



In "Within the Gates," which is announced to close January 12

Jane Grey Added to Cast

Jane Grey, whose last Broadway appearance was in "It All Depends" in 1927 with Norman Trevor, has been added to the cast of "A Lady Detained," the Sam Shipman play which opens next Wednesday at the Ambassador Theater. Oscar Shaw and Claudia Morgan have the leading roles.

Will Offer Two One-Act Plays

Two new one-act plays will be presented Sunday night at the Civic Repertory Theater under the direction of "The New Theater," stage manager Clifford Odets, of the

Un
Pla
Dr
The
H
A
4 P
Aut
A

SC
ganiz
instit
in A
gous
annov
Unior
presid
Mohat
tute
on the
Mr.
nation
ers, w
head
ers wh
Dr.
profes
of Wis
on the
affair
Thea
retur
stage
At
threl
be 1
trata
Wind
Jeff
new
cusl
Rev
of E
out

notice of
Bronze Honor
A. W. A.
Jan. 6, 1935