

Former Playmaker Cast In T.C. Play, Nov. 15, 16

Lock Haven Express
1954

Lock Haven people who have seen "Teahouse of the August Moon," have an opportunity next Monday and Tuesday to see a Teachers College performance of an earlier John Patrick play, "The Curious Savage," a gentle, whimsical comedy by the author of the current Broadway hit.

Hazel Rae Ferguson, director of the college production, has cast a former active Playmaker, Mrs. John W. Akeley, in the title role as "Mrs. Savage." A graduate of the college some years ago, Rose Minne Akeley will head an otherwise all-student cast.

Miss Kathleen Greco, a sophomore, also of Lock Haven, will make a first appearance as "Miss Willie," director of the asylum where practical-minded step-children put "Mrs. Savage" after having her declared insane.

This comedy is called a salute to the spirit of loving-kindness to one's fellow beings. John Patrick has championed the notion that only those who can give, as well as take full-hearted friendship can be happy.

Talking about her cast, Mrs. Ferguson says they are not inexperienced. Frank Minler of Williamsport, who will play the "Hannibal" role, took the lead last year in "Three Men on a Horse," and was cast as "Gabriel" in "The Nativity."

Nona Rae Evans of Clearfield was outstanding in "Rebecca" and "Harvey."

Gloria Mau of Lancaster, Mary



Rose M. Akeley

She joins a student group, directed by Mrs. Hazel Rae Ferguson, to appear in a John Patrick comedy here.

Jane McHenry of Houtzdale and Joe Frontino are making promising appearances in this play.

"We do hope we can have present an audience sprinkled with many adults as well as students," Mrs. Ferguson says.

A college play is a student study project in dramatics, but it benefits like any other show from the interplay of drama and a lively audience, she says.

College Players To Give Comedy

Mrs. Akeley Fills 'Savage' Title Role

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In the original Broadway production of the comedy, this part of the pixilated and curious "Mrs. Savage" was acted by Lillian Gish.

"The Curious Savage" is the first play from the pen of John Patrick since his world-wide success, "The Hasty Heart." The "curious" heroine of its title is a wealthy widow who decides to put her late husband's fortune in a "happiness fund," devoted to helping people do the foolish things they have always dreamed of.

Put in Sanitarium
Her step-children, horrified at such nonsensical uses of the money they expect to inherit, have the generous "Mrs. Savage" clapped in a high-class sanitarium.

Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, director, announces that the roles of the amiable fugitives from the harshness of daily life have now also been filled. Grace Barnhart, Nona Rae Evans, Mary Jane McHenry, Frank Minner and Jean Crago will be seen as the fellow-guests of "Mrs. Savage."

Parts of 'Children'
Her "step-children" are to be played by Gloria Mau, Jack Noll and Arnold Levine.

Kathleen Greco and Joe Frontino will portray the staff that manages the elegant refuge for illusions.

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(Continued from page 7)
slightly pixilated people who have found there a delightful retreat from the conflicts and confusions of an "outside" world which has neither the time nor patience to understand them. Abetted by her new-found friends, and strengthened by them in the belief that people have a right to be different and to do giddy things once in a while, Mrs. Savage proceeds with an hilarious plan to outwit her greedy step-children.

Mrs. John Akeley will portray the title role of the wealthy and wacky widow in the College Player's presentation of "The Curious Savage," a part created by Lillian Gish on the New York stage. Others in the company, which is being directed by Hazel Ray Ferguson, will include Mona Rae Evans, Frank Minner, Grace Barnhart, Ronald Boyd, Mary Jane McHenry, Arnold Levine, Jack Noll, Gloria Mau, Kathleen Greco, and Joe Frontino.

1954 - Oct 12 - Eagle's nest

COLLEGE PLAY CAST ANNOUNCED

The cast for The Curious Savage has been selected from the auditions that Mrs. Hazel Ferguson held on October 4-5. Nona Rae Evans, Frank Minner, Grace Barnhart, Jean Crago, and Mary Jane McHenry have been cast as the guests.

Arnold Levine, Jack Noll, Gloria Mau, Mrs. Ferguson, Joe Frontino, and Kathleen Greco have been cast as members of the family.

The staff includes Mrs. Hazel Ray Ferguson, director; Jo Rudnick, assistant director; Ralph Wikstrom, scene designer; Barbara Shannon, wardrobe mistress; Britten Winters, men's wardrobe; Peter Brunner, assisted by play production class, sets; Dave Fetter, lighting; Stanley Goldman, business manager; Reynolds Mitchell, Charles Yocom, and James Yoxtheimer, publicity; Ralph Wikstrom, stage manager.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant to the Director Ralph Wikstrom
Production Manager Peter Brunner
Stage Manager Ralph Wikstrom
Lighting David Fetter, John Akeley
Stage Crew Kenneth Barlow, Harold Adams, Donald Lane, Charles Yocom, Ruth Hintenlang, Britton Winters, Reynolds Mitchell.
Publicity Stanley Goldman
Wardrobe Mistress Barbara Shannon
Properties Jo Rudnick
Make-up Barbara Elliott
House Manager Elwood A. Rice
Ushers Marcia McHenry, Nancy Klingen Smith, Patricia Hopkins, Bud Lingle, Larry Hauler, Ardell Bressler, Florence Straus, Paul Lyons.

THE COLLEGE PLAYERS

of

LOCK HAVEN STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

present

"The Curious Savage"

by

JOHN PATRICK



THE NEXT PRODUCTION

"THE NATIVITY", the annual Christmas festival, will be presented by Lock Haven State Teachers College on December 12 at 4:30 P. M. and 8:15 P. M., on December 13 at 8:15 P. M., staged by Hazel Ray Ferguson, music by Russell Gillam.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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November Fifteenth and Sixteenth
Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four

Price Auditorium



Two of College Players Tonight

Miss Kathleen Grieco, left, a Lock Haven student at the Teachers College, and Joe Frontino are two of the cast of "The Curious Savage," a three-act comedy to be given tonight and tomorrow at 8 p. m. in Price Auditorium at the Teachers College. Miss Grieco plays "Miss Willie" and Frontino, "P. A. Emmett," both members of "The Cloisters," which is the scene of action in the play.

Play Tonight at 8 At T. C. Auditorium

Director Hazel Rae Ferguson is presenting a Teachers College cast, supplemented by Rose Minnie Akeley in a lead role. In the three-act comedy, "The Curious Savage," tonight and tomorrow at 8 p. m. at Price Auditorium.

The play is one by John Patrick, the first after his successful, "The Hasty Heart." Like that play, it deals with the spirit of loving-kindness caught in a struggle with life's hard facts.

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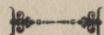
"THE CURIOUS SAVAGE"

by

John Patrick

Directed by Hazel Ray Ferguson

Original Setting Design — Ralph Wikstrom



CAST OF CHARACTERS

The Guests:

Florence	Nona Rae Evans
Hannibal	Frank Minnier
Fairy May	Grace Barnhart
Jeffery	Ronald Boyd
Mrs. Paddy	Mary Jane McHenry

The Family:

Titus	Arnold Levine
Samuel	Jack Noll
Lily Bell	Gloria Man
Ethel Savage	Rose Minnie Probst Akeley

The Staff

Miss Wilhelmina	Kathleen Grieco
Dr. Emmett	Joe Frontino
Little Boy	David Miller

SCENES

The entire action of the play takes place in the living room of "The Cloisters".

Time: Now

Act I

Scene 1. Night

Scene 2. The next morning

(Intermission — twelve minutes)

Act II

Scene 1. That night, after dinner

Scene 2. A few nights later

(Intermission — nine minutes)

Act III

A few minutes later

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Most playwrights are enamored of protagonists who are dynamic personalities and whose "normal" force enables them to triumph over their adversaries, "normal" or otherwise. John Patrick is different. He is a champion of gentle confused people and he managed to argue his case successfully with the tender story of a young Scottish soldier in "The Hasty Heart" who needed friendship but did not know how to accept it when it was offered. In fact, that 1944 play about life in a military hospital behind the lines in Burma is generally regarded as the modern theatre's most effective salute to the meek who, if they don't actually inherit the earth, certainly deserve consideration from their fellow men.

No shred of the plot or characters of "The Hasty Heart" is found in "The Curious Savage," but Patrick's heart is unchanged. This time his gentle people are a group who cannot understand why they should not be different and who have retreated from reality to a refuge of charming illusions.

A fugitive from Hollywood, Patrick spent several months under contract to one studio without receiving a single writing assignment. Having become accustomed to the foibles of Hollywood during this idle period, he was not surprised when his option was renewed for another six months, with compliments on his fine work. Before that, he wrote scripts for the Helen Hayes radio program and he once bluffed his way into a singing job on a West Coast radio station.

The New York opening of "The Curious Savage" was in October 1950. Lillian Gish was seen in the title role of the loveable do-gooder, Ethel Savage.

The "curious" Ethel Savage is no looney at all, but just charmingly eccentric. A gentle woman who's inherited several million dollars upon her husband's death, Mrs. Savage takes a childish delight in doing all the foolish things she didn't get a chance to do when she was younger. She's had her hair tinted blue, taken up in a ballet dancing, is seen everywhere with a teddy bear, and has starred on Broadway in a terrible play she wrote and financed. Though probably everybody would like to indulge themselves in some ludicrously foolish whim now and then, Mrs. Savage is different. When she gets an urge to do something foolishness, she's established what she calls her "happiness fund."

As in his earlier touching play, "The Hasty Heart" about an embittered Scottish soldier who gets a new lease on his lonely life through love and friendship, John Patrick's theme in "The Curious Savage" is that happiness comes from generously giving love to others as well as in receiving it.

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Not everybody approves of the way Mrs. Savage has decided to dispose of her fortune, however, least of all her grasping step-children. Fearful that there won't be much left for them to inherit if "the curious savage" continues on her merry spending sprees, they pack her off to a sanitarium called "The Cloisters" hoping that they can have her declared legally insane eventually. At "The Cloisters" Mrs. Savage makes friends with the

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