



# To Be Presented

## THREE-ACT DRAMA BY ALBERT CASELLA BEING PRODUCED BY COLLEGE DRAMATICS CLUB

### FIRST PLAY IN NEW AUDITORIUM

Next Friday night at 8:15 o'clock the curtain of the new college auditorium will port on the first Dramatics Club production of the year, "Death Takes a Holiday," a three-act fantasy drama of the Casella—an Italian play adapted for the English stage. Under the direction of Miss C. Cordelia Brong, the members of the Dramatics Club have taken infinite pains with their work in order to insure a top-flight performance.

The cast has been undergoing very intensive rehearsals for the past seven weeks; the efforts of the actors promise a very entertaining evening to the public. An elaborate and beautiful stage setting has been designed and constructed. It is so designed to furnish a proper background and generate an appropriate atmosphere for the theme of the play; this, under the desired lighting effects will produce a strikingly dramatic work of art.

"Death Takes a Holiday" boasts an outstanding cast, for the most part composed of veterans, although some new talent will be given the chance to display itself before the footlights. Heading the list—in the leading roles—are two Chi Kappa Sigma veterans: Eugene McCrumer and June Hollenbeck.

Interpreting the title role of "Death" is Mr. Engene McCrumer of Williamsport. McCrumer makes an excellent "Death;" he is of imposing stature and possesses a remarkably resonant baritone voice which is ideally suited for such a portrayal. During the play he will appear as three separate characters: First as the "Shadow," second as "Death," and third, as "Prince Serki." Each of these personifications requires special acting ability and intricate make-up.

Acting opposite as "Grazia," the daughter of an aristocratic Italian family—the girl with whom he falls in love during his earthly sojourn—is Miss June Hollenback of Pittsburgh. Both Miss Hollenback and Mr. McCrumer are veterans of the Lock Haven State Teachers College stage. Last year Miss Hollenback played the role of "Edith Jones" in "Mrs. Moonlight," receiving very favorable press reviews. In the previous drama, "Craig's Wife," Mr. McCrumer interpreted the male lead of "Mr. Craig" and thereby introduced himself to public acclaim.

Next to the universal plays of Shakespeare, and certainly in line with those of Isben, O'Neill, and perhaps Shaw, one of the greatest plays since written is "Death Takes a Holiday." As a play it possesses almost perfect theatre; as a work of art it combines both mood and atmosphere into an aesthetic, almost ethereal end; and as literature—it contains some very beautiful philosophy, beautifully expressed; all of these, of course, dependent upon the contributions of the individual actor.

This drama tells of "Death" who, tiring of his gruesome work, decides to spend a three-day vacation on earth. Throughout his earthly sojourn not a single thing dies—humans, insects, or plants. "Death" wants to know why men fear him. He finds out from the members of the supporting cast, which includes: "Richard Hartzell of Lock Haven in the role of "Duke Lambert;" Miss Katherine Frey of Lock Haven as "Princess," Miss Dene Hocker of Montoursville as

#### Death Takes

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"Alda," Miss Harriet Figgles of Lock Haven as "Stephanie;" Willard Poff of Williamsport as "Baron Cesura;" Miss Lois Reeder of Williamsport as "Rhoda;" Michael Kolivosky of Grassflats as "Corrado;" Joseph Danis of Mill Hall as "Eric;" Monroe Hurwitz of Lock Haven as "Major Whitehead;" Robert Deem of Flemington as "Fedele," and Miss Josephine Delo of Altoona as "Cora."

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Last night, before a well-filled house, the Teachers College Dramatics Club presented its first play of the season, "Death Takes a Holiday," a three-act phantasy-drama by Alberto Casella. This was the first play presented in the new college auditorium and following the successful performance a reception was held for the cast in the music room above the lobby of the new auditorium. Many members of the club, the cast and friends attended.

### Stage Set Beautiful

For two hours the audience sat entranced. Before them was a dramatic setting which equalled, if not surpassed, any stage set here-to-fore seen in Lock Haven. It represented the interior of a sumptuous Italian villa, and was beautifully shaded to the mood of the play by the skillful handling of an intricate lighting system. On the stage an exquisite story of life, death and sacrifice, was portrayed by a cast which exhibited the result of intelligent interpretation, weeks of intensive rehearsals, and the skilled directing of Miss C. Cordelia Brong.

"Men do not realize the magnificence of their lives" is the theme of this powerful, moving drama in which "Death" the gruesome master of the unknown takes a vacation from his work and spends three days on earth to learn why men fear him.

"Death Takes a Holiday" was visibly the product of weeks of hard work. The beautiful setting, designed under the chairmanship of Miss Frey was constructed from the ground up, under the supervision of Roger Bickford.

Following suggestions from the design committee, the interior decoration was worked out by Miss Dorothy Sheasley of Flemington. Miss Helen Beckenbaugh, also of Flemington was chairman of properties. The entire work of the stage and its construction was under the immediate supervision of Ralph Link of Patton.

The beautiful lighting effects were achieved by the lighting crew under the direction of Harvey Robb, chairman of the lighting

forum and switchboard engineer. Back stage sound effects were supplied through the efforts of Mr. Hurwitz and his committee.

### Many on Production Staff

The clothing of the characters was taken care of by members of the Dramatics Club costume forum and make-up was applied by members of the make-up forum under the supervision of Miss Margaret Priest. A few of the characters worked out their own make-up, as in the case of Mr. McCramer in his role of "Death."

Miss Mary Elizabeth McCollum served as business manager. In the various departments under her, Charles Norlund acted as publicity manager, William Masterson as ticket manager, Miss Roberta Sebato as house manager, and Miss Mary Jane McKeever of Johnstown as head usher.

Miss Loretta Petrucci was production secretary; Miss Flora McLean, Williamsport, was student director, and Miss Josephine Delo of Altoona was prompter. Miss Sonia Venger of Mill Hall headed the committee which made the flowers.



DEATH

Grazia and The Shadow  
Frame

Death Takes a Holiday

June Holzrebach

+

Eugene Mc Cramer

DELOS L. GLOSSNER  
PHOTOGRAPHER

LOCK HAVEN, PA

NOV 1939



Death  
takes  
a  
holiday

Folder 21

GLOSSNER PHOTO SERVICE  
106 BELLEFONTE AVENUE  
LOCK HAVEN, PENNA.

DEC 1939

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## Give "Death Takes A Holiday" Tonight; Debaters Leave

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A beautiful setting, resplendent with columns and arches, has been built by the club members, to serve as a background for the play's action. "Death" will be played by Eugene McCramer of Williamsport, and "Grazia," the leading feminine role in this well-known drama, will be enacted by Miss June Hollenbach of Pittsburgh.

Others in the cast include Richard F. Hartzell, Jr., Monroe Hurnitz, Miss Harriet Figgles and Miss Katherine Frey of this city; Robert Deem of Flemington; Joseph Danis of Mill Hall; Miss Josephine Delo of Altoona; Miss Dene Hocker of Montoursville; Miss Lois Reeder and Willard Poff of Williamsport, and Michael Kolvosky of Grassflat.

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