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Our Town

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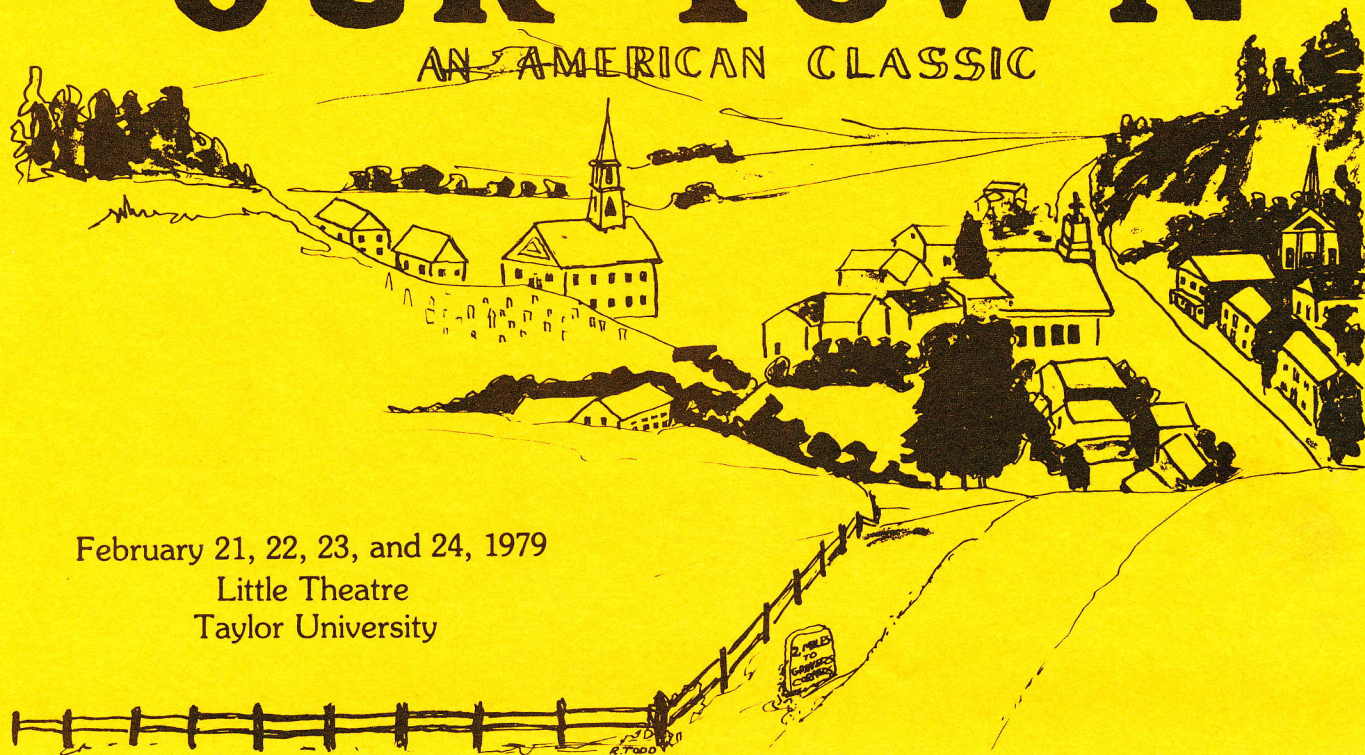
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Taylor University Theatre presents

THORNTON WILDER'S

OUR TOWN

AN AMERICAN CLASSIC



February 21, 22, 23, and 24, 1979

Little Theatre
Taylor University

PROGRAM NOTES

THORNTON WILDER was born in 1897 in Madison, Wisconsin. In 1906 his father, a newspaper editor, was appointed to the Hong Kong, and subsequently the Shanghai, consulate. Thus Wilder spent some of his childhood in the Orient though his experiences were confined to foreign-colony schools. Eventually he returned to America and finished high school in California. He attended Oberlin College and then Yale University. He completed his B. A. in 1920. In that year Yale Literary Magazine concluded serial publication of his first full-length play THE TRUMPET SHALL SOUND. After Yale, Wilder went to Rome on a fellowship and studied archaeology at the American Academy there. Upon his return in 1921 he taught French at the New Jersey preparatory school and completed his master's degree in French at Princeton University.

Wilder first achieved literary importance with the publication of a novel, THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY. The novel quickly became a best seller and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1928. Following this success Wilder and his sister toured Europe where he spent most of his time in theatres whose productions he reviewed for Theatre Arts Monthly. Wilder was particularly interested in studying "presentational" drama, with which he had already experimented in his short works and which he was to develop in his most distinguished full-length plays.

Between 1914 and 1927 Wilder wrote some forty, three minute dramatic sketches, sixteen of which he published in 1928 as THE ANGEL THAT TROUBLED THE WATERS AND OTHER PLAYS. In 1931, Wilder published a collection of one-act plays under the title THE LONG CHRISTMAS DINNER AND OTHER PLAYS IN ONE ACT. His growing literary reputation brought him many lecture invitations, including an appointment at the University of Chicago where he taught literature one semester a year from 1930 to 1936.

Wilder was first produced on Broadway with LUCRECE, a translation of Andre Obey's poetic play LE VIOL DE LUCRECE. Wilder's translation of Ibsen's A DOLL'S HOUSE opened on Broadway in late 1937, less than two months before his Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece OUR TOWN. His second Broadway play, THE MERCHANT OF YONKERS, was subsequently revised as THE MATCHMAKER. During the war Wilder's reputation as a dramatist grew with THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH for which he won his third Pulitzer Prize. He continued writing, lecturing and traveling but produced few important works following the novel THE IDES OF MARCH in 1948. In 1950-51 he was the Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard and published his lectures on American writers and his researches on early Spanish drama.

Wilder had a unique capacity for studying and recreating a place, any place he chose, for a story. His various works reveal him to be no great admirer of plot, although he had great interest in happenings as they reveal human values and motives. His plays are highly theatrical, experimental and eclectic (as are his novels), but the language is as homespun as the attitudes that are expressed. Such traditionalism made Wilder one of the important playwrights of his age. Thornton Wilder died in his sleep from a heart attack December 7, 1975.

OUR TOWN

Directed and Designed by Ollie Hubbard

THE CAST

(In the order of their appearance)

Stage Manager	Ollie Hubbard	Mrs. Soames	Rhonda Jeter
Dr. Gibbs	Gregg Francis	Constable Warren	Mike McGinnis
Joe Crowell	Jeff Wallace	Si Crowell	Jeff Wallace
Howie Newsome	Ken Delp	Baseball Players	Tom Albinson
Mrs Gibbs	Paula Town		Dave Harden, Tim Johnson
Mrs. Webb	Karen Wolff	Sam Craig	Terry Haines
George	Mark Sumney	Joe Stoddard	David Murray
Rebecca Gibbs	Becky Hubbard	First Dead Woman	Karol Svanoe
Wally Webb	Mark Ringenberg	First Dead Man	Mark Collins
Emily Webb	Edie Rader	Second Dead Woman	Cathy Breen
Professor Willard	*Brad Hicks	Second Dead Man	Monte Sander
Mr. Webb	Dave Shipley	Farmer McCarthy	Doug Oliver
Woman in the Balcony	Laura Lee Binder	Townspople	Lynn Ann Livergood
Man in the Auditorium	Quentin Nantz		Maureen Waldron, Joy Wilson
Lady in the Box	Jane Vanderbilt	Stage Hands	Catherine Curtis
Simon Stimson	Dan Norris		Teresa Cress, Sue Schuneman

The play takes place in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, 1901 - 1913.

There will be a ten-minute intermission between each act

A Communication & Theatre Arts Department Production

MUSICAL SELECTIONS HEARD THIS EVENING

Blest Be the Tie That Binds	Hans G. Nageli (1773-1836)	Largo	George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
Love Divine All Loves Excelling	John Zundel (1815-1882)	Wedding March from Lohengrin	Richard Wagner (1813-1883)
Wedding March	Felix Mendelssohn (1896-1951)		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our appreciation to Dr. Frederick Shulze for providing the organ music required for this production.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	Ollie Hubbard	Assistant to the Director	Debby Cox
Set Committee	Harold Blum	Costumes	Laura Lee Binder
	Brenda Conway		Bonnie Veenstra
	Colleen Coughenour		Debbie Watson
	Ken Delp	Make-up	DOUG OLIVER
	Rhonda Jeter		DAWN GWIN
	Doug Marlow		Karen Garner
	Kim Montgomery		Laurice Groenier
	Randy Treu		Terry Haines
	Bill Wallace		Jan Harris
Lighting	KEVIN CONKLIN		Tammy Lane
	Rich Bailey		Jennifer Leonhard
	Paul Chapman	House	JOY MANDA
	Mary Lou Griffith		Kay Brewer
	Doug Marlow		Vicki Cruse
	Bill Wallace		Elaine Hepler
Sound	BRIAN RISHAW		Beth Jacober
	Shaun Campbell		Lori Magby
	Harold Shafer		Becky Norris
Properties	CATHERINE CURTIS		Lori Weber
	Teresa Cress	Cover Program/Design	Robert Todd
	Sue Schuneman		

During intermission we invite you to visit the Senior art exhibits of Karen Rohde and Mary Spencer in the Chronicle-Tribune Art Gallery on the main floor

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL April 25 - 28, 1979

As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance