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The Cave Dwellers

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THE CAVE DWELLERS
by William Saroyan
December
10, 11, 12

Trojan Players
Taylor University
THE DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH

and

THE TROJAN PLAYERS

of

Taylor University

Present

THE CAVE DWELLERS

by

William Saroyan

Shreiner Auditorium

December 10, 11, and 12, 1964 at 8:15 p.m.

Produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French Incorporated
THE CAST OF THE CAVE DWELLERS

The Duke .................. Paul Martin
The Girl ..................... Ellen Miller
The Queen ................... Naome Fearing*
The King ..................... Robert Finton*
The Young Opponent .......... Gordon Thiessen
A Woman With A Dog ........ Terra Crisman
A Young Man ............... Doug Shaffer
The Young Queen .......... Georgia Meiboom
The Father ................. Wayne Ridder
Gorky ....................... David Slater*
The Mother ................... Linda Tarry
The Silent Boy ............. Doug Shaffer
The Wrecking Crew Boss ... Don Bardsley
Jamie ...................... Walter Whitmore*

SCENES

The play, in two acts and ten scenes, happens within the space of a few days, on the stage of an abandoned theatre on the lower East Side of New York, in the midst of a slum-clearing project.

* Denotes Trojan Player Membership

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director
Assistant Directors

Jim Young
Barbara Dumbaugh*
Sharon Howard
Juanita Krueger

Technical Director
Assistant Technical Director

Tom Ringenberg
Jack A. Rozelle

Stage ...................... Trum Simmons
John Boer*, Dayle Dickey*

Stage Properties .......... Rob Steedman
James Ross, Dianne Stieber, Danielle Vansickle

Costumes ................... Carol Hautamaki
Sandra Flannigan, Carolyn Herr, Barbara Kirchner, Carolyn Profitt

Make-up ..................... Jeanne Rupp*
Bonnie Dixon, Barbara Linn, Marietta Meacham, Carolyn Saxton, Marjorie Schippers, Bruce Simmerok

Publicity .................... Judy Rupp*
Carol Chumney, Robert Finton*, Harry Shepler, Joan Templin*

Box Office .................. Judy Rupp
Robert Aller*, Roberta Hiatt, Pamela Simmons, Darlyne Young*

Lighting and Sound .......... Robert Hunter*
Charles Fattore, Paul Hanson, James Troeger

House ...................... Marcia Edgett
Louise Hay, Nancy Kitson

* Denotes Trojan Player Membership
ABOUT THE PLAY

The Cave Dweller is a package—no, a present containing life as William Saroyan sees it. Perhaps he would have liked to have handed his gift to us beautifully wrapped in the finest of silver paper laced with gold and topped by a 50¢ bow, but he couldn’t do that. For life as he sees it isn’t magnificently garnished. It is a once carefully wrapped parcel done in brown paper and coarse string which much harsh post office handling has battered almost beyond recognition.

The King, the Queen, the Duke, yes, even the Girl don’t find life at this moment three meals a day and a warm family scene around the television at night. For them the reality of life is “the loaf of bread, old and hard, but bread, at any rate. These few sad coins…” It is the King begging “of my inferiors” and then crying to no one and everyone, “Christ, how the people hate one another to pass the beggar as if he weren’t there.” It is the Queen dying yet struggling to make that “one good Queenly hour” every day simply because it is life as she knows it. It is the Duke—a broken down boxer who never could “holler” before his big fight, so lost it. But above and beyond all the minute and major incidents that make life precisely that, life is love, Mr. Saroyan seems to say. Not that first emotional love which springs up between people for no accountable reason, though there is some of this kind; not even that love which has reached the level of respect for the rights and necessities of others’ personalities; but that love which is driven by a genuine concern for those about us. The Duke steals milk which he could never have stolen for himself because he is concerned about a new baby which 24 hours earlier was no concern of his. The Silent Boy out of his immediate perception and understanding is concerned enough to take away nothing and to give much of the warm humanity which redeems mankind.

Love pervading—that is the theme; love as the “secret of the theatre”; love as the cohesive core of a family; and love as the cohesive core of a “thrown together family.” Say that love cannot be wrapped in brown paper and tied with string only if you have never received the homemade, personally hand-wrapped gift of a child.

Beyond the realism and frequent pessimism of much contemporary theatre, Mr. Saroyan steps forward quietly with his hands behind his back—timid, tender hands holding a brown parcel, yet hands that strongly and surely draw that package forward to present it to us. Accept this package, he seems to say, no matter how you look at life either as a help to understand more or as a confirmation and support of your own view. And accept it too, as our Christmas gift, to you our audience—an essential part of theatre at Taylor.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Miss Barbara Carruth
Miss Linda Sweet

Mrs. Lily Haakonsen
Harry Haakonsen