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Ah, Wilderness, program

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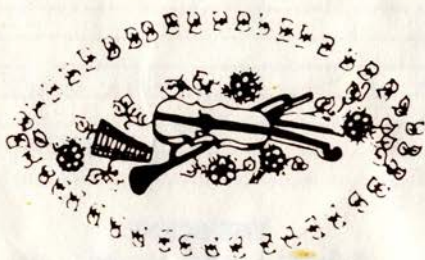
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The Mississippi State
University
Lyceum Series

presents

AH, WILDERNESS!



Lee Hall Auditorium

February 5, 1976

AH, WILDERNESS!

A Comedy of Recollection
by
EUGENE O'NEILL

Directed by
REV. GILBERT V. HARTKE, O.P.

Setting and Lighting by
PHILLIP GRANETO

Costumes by
JOSEPH LEWIS

Production Assistant
JIMMY BOHR

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

MISSY	DEBRA CERRUTI
MILDRED	HELEN HEDMAN
ARTHUR	THOMAS SCHALL
ESSIE	GINA ALLURED
LILLY	CHRISTY NEWLAND
NAT	ALAN D. SHARE
SID	JAMES KELLY
RICHARD	CHARLEY LANG
DAVID McCOMBER	CHRIS KAUFFMANN
NORAH	ANN MARIE LEE
WINT	JIMMY BOHR
BELLE	HELEN HEDMAN
MEN IN THE BAR	DAVID K. BLACK, KEITH WILLIAMS
BARTENDER	FRED GREENE
SALESMAN	PINKNEY VENNING MIKELL
MURIEL	ANN MARIE LEE

THE SCENE

A Small Town in Connecticut,
1906

There Will Be Two Intermissions

* *

Exclusive Management

THE LEIGH BUREAU
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

The Story of **AH, WILDERNESS!**

An ordinary American family lives in a large small-town of Connecticut in 1906. An average family, faced by average problems, they are typical in their humors and vexations. What concerns them most is the youthful fervor of Richard, a high school senior and a rebel: he reads Swinburne, Shaw, Wilder, and Omar Khayyam, and his mother therefore worries. He hates capital and his father is therefore disturbed. He is also passionately in love with a neighbor girl. The scraps of Swinburne that he sends the girl alarm her father, who forces her to break with Richard in melodramatic style. Being young and arrogant, Richard runs amuck to spite her and becomes drunk in the local bar with a strange lady. His parents are sure that their world has come to an end. But the young girl-friend manages to prove her devotion at a moonlit rendezvous and Richard is himself again. After everything has settled, the father and mother begin to remember that they were once young, too.

A NOTE ON THE PLAY

Coming as it did after a series of dark and brooding tragedies, **AH, WILDERNESS!** was in 1933 something of a surprise to O'Neill's international audience. It was as if, for the first time, the light that had long counterfeited gloom now broke into warm, if not merry, flame. In this play America, reflected in his bright vision, emerges from its adolescence. The heroic poet has revealed a human heart.

Now, with that humanity itself so darkly expressed in his later dramas, it is again something of a surprise when we go back to this play. It is still a unique revelation of the infrequent and almost furtive joyful aspect of its author's nature. We treasure it as the last and lonely benediction of the world by a man who wrote out of anguish, amidst the ache of grief and guilt, pursuing a forlorn peace backward through the echoing corridors of time.

THE NATIONAL PLAYERS

NATIONAL PLAYERS is the oldest and most highly respected touring theatrical repertory company in the United States today. Working out of the nation's capital, a company of actors has gone on the road every year from October until May since 1949 — 27 years of continuous operation which make NATIONAL PLAYERS the longest-running national classical repertory company in America.

In its long and colorful history, NATIONAL PLAYERS has offered over 3,500 performances of brilliant and imaginative productions of the classical and modern masterworks of the stage, embracing the works of the greatest of the world's playwrights: Shakespeare, Sophocles, Shaw, Aeschylus, Aristophanes and Moliere. The companies have played in 39 states in the East, Midwest, South, Southwest, West, in Canada, off-Broadway, on network television, by special invitation to the White House, and in 9 overseas tours under the Department of Defense in Korea, Japan, Italy, France, Germany and the Arctic Circle. At the conclusion of this 27th tour the company will leave immediately to present their current repertoire to audiences in Asia and Europe.

Many distinguished alumni of PLAYERS are now well-known in the professional theatre, television and film worlds. Walter Kerr (drama critic), Alan Schneider (Broadway director), Robert Moore (Broadway and television director), Mme Claude Chagrin (mime director of London's National Theatre and several Broadway productions), Jon Voight of films, Mariclare Costello, Gino Conforti, David Sabin, Jack Knight and Laurence Luckinbill of television, Kenneth Kimmins, Bernard McInerney, David Rounds and Chris Sarandon of the N.Y. stage . . . all of these 'names' of today were once members of PLAYERS touring productions or one of PLAYERS summer theatre ventures. Few American theatrical organizations can take credit for making so many contributions to the current American entertainment scene.

PLAYERS has succeeded in uniting its audiences and its productions in the richest theatrical experience possible . . . at the same time offering enjoyment to those who look and listen, and opportunity to those who produce and perform . . . to a point of prominence unequalled in the American theatre today.

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