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THE HEIRESS

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THE NEXT PLAY

Without Love by Philip Barry is a sophisticated high comedy which describes an American marriage of convenience under pre-war pressures. It served as a starring vehicle for Katherine Hepburn a few years ago and delighted Broadway audiences. **Without Love** will open Tuesday, January 29th, and run for twelve performances until Sunday, February 10th. There will be no play on Monday, February 4th.

TRYOUTS

Tryouts for the new play will be held December 10th, 11th, and 12th at 7:30 p.m. in the Cornhusker Hotel. Everyone is urged to participate. For further information call Mr. Karl Sittler, 4-6216, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

WE PROGRESS

Since last season there've been some changes made! You may have noticed that the stage seems larger. This is no illusion. It is—made so by the combined labor of volunteers. In addition to this, the cast now treads softly upon a fine carpet, the gift of Mr. A. Q. Schimmel. The Stone Floor Service was kind enough to lay this new and permanent property for us.

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THE CURRENT PLAY

The Heiress, a successful Broadway play of the 1947-48 season, made, the following year, an outstanding motion picture. In the stage version, Basil Rathbone, who took the part of austere and hateful Dr. Sloper, and Wendy Hiller, who played his awkward and unloved daughter, received acclaim for their excellent portrayals. Ralph Richardson and Olivia de Havilland, cast in these respective roles for the screen, likewise gave performances of distinction. Both as play and as movie, this period drama of mid-19th century Manhattan carried across to its audiences the atmosphere and the emotional conflicts of that past time. Ruth and Augustus Goetz, who founded their play on one of Henry James's short novels, **Washington Square**, may well be congratulated for giving us this vital bit of theater, although to Henry James is due some acknowledgement as well.

Indeed, had he known of it, Henry James might have envied the success of Mr. and Mrs. Goetz, for he considered himself a notable failure as a playwright. Two of his works, **Daisy Miller** and **The American**, he did make into plays. The first was never brought to the stage at all, and the other, presented in London in 1891, was far from being a hit.

In their adaptation of **The Heiress**, Ruth and Augustus Goetz display more theater-sense than the author of **Washington Square** possessed by their handling of the end of the play. Character is sacrificed to plot to make a vivid finish. James, being so much concerned with character above all, probably would have found this impossible to accomplish.

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The Circlet Community Theater, Inc.

SIXTH SEASON

THIRTY-SECOND PLAY

presents

THE HEIRESS

A play by Ruth and Augustus Goetz

suggested by the Henry James novel

"Washington Square"

PRODUCED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF KARL SITTLER

Synopsis of Scenes

The entire action of the play takes place in the front parlor of Doctor Sloper's house in Washington Square. The year is 1850.

Act I:

Scene 1: An October evening.

Scene 2: An afternoon two weeks later.

Scene 3: The next morning.

Act II:

Scene 1: An April night six months later.

Scene 2: Two hours later.

Scene 3: A morning three days later.

Scene 4: A summer evening almost two years later.

THE CAST

(In the order of their appearance)

Dr. Austin Sloper	- - - - -	George Wilson
Catherine Sloper	- - - - -	Helen Davison
Mrs. Lavinia Penniman	- - - - -	Lillian Holmes Polley
Mrs. Elizabeth Almond	- - - - -	Leanna Shike
Marian Almond	- - - - -	Barbara Burton
Arthur Townsend	- - - - -	Bruce Emmons
Morris Townsend	- - - - -	David B. Downing
Maria	- - - - -	Carolyn Jones
Mrs. Montgomery	- - - - -	Marieta Songster

PRODUCED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

Milady coffee served in foyer between first and second acts

Curtain 8:15



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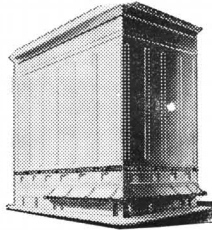
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THE CAST UNMASKED

GEORGE WILSON (Dr. Sloper) needs no introduction to Circllet theater goers, who will remember his fine performance as the father in **Years Ago** (1948) for which he received the Oscar award. Aside from being an amateur actor, Mr. Wilson also collects stamps, is an ardent photographer and is scoutmaster of Troop 22. All these extra-curricular activities, however, do not keep him from his job, which is ticket clerk at the Union Bus Depot.

HELEN DAVISON (Catherine Sloper) makes her bow to Circllet audiences in this play. At Nebraska Wesleyan University, where she is a senior music major, Miss Davison received in the spring of 1950 an award for the outstanding supporting role in **Jenny Kissed Me**. After her graduation in January, she is to be married to a young engineer who is now in Kentucky. They expect to make their home in Paducah, Kentucky.

LEANNA SHIKE (Mrs. Elizabeth Almond) read about Circllet try-outs in the newspaper and decided it would be fun to venture. A native of Lincoln, Miss Shike has worked in New York where she was once associated with Toots Shor's restaurant. She is interested in various women's clubs here, is fond of golf and dancing. One of her dearest possessions is a cocker spaniel, **Our Perspicacious Pecan**—Peek for short.

LILLIAN HOLMES POLLEY (Mrs. Lavinia Penniman) had no idea when she retired

from the faculty of the University of Nebraska's School of Music that she would go on the stage, but she delighted audiences in **Good-Bye My Fancy** last spring and we are happy to welcome her back again.

BARBARA BURTON (Marian Almond) is a window-display coordinator at Miller and Paine's. She also does modeling and is planning to take a course in that work. This is her first Circllet role but she was in a number of plays at Northeast High School.

MARIETA SONGSTER (Mrs. Montgomery) has been in a good many plays in her time although she has not appeared on our stage before. Mrs. Songster is a fairly busy person dividing her days between her job at Gold's where she is a secretary and her family.

CAROLYN JONES (Maria) came to Lincoln in the fall of 1949 with her husband who is a professor of psychology at Nebraska. Mrs. Jones has also taken advanced work in psychology, but now devotes her energy to housekeeping and being den mother to ten little cub scouts.

DAVID B. DOWNING (Morris Townsend) grandson of former dean Nels Bengtson at the University of Nebraska, is a junior in the College of Law. He plans, eventually, to enter law practice with his father in Superior, Nebraska. Two years ago he acquitted himself extremely well on our stage as George in **All My Sons**.

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Reservations for the current play "The Heiress" may be made any morning, except Sunday, by calling 2-1454 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Because of a one-night rest for the cast, there will be no performance on December 3rd.

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