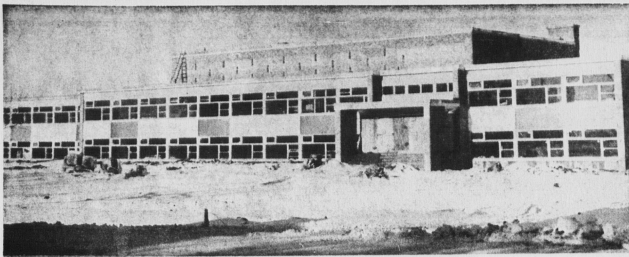


BROADWAY HIT ON VIEW

S'side Students Stage Big Production



GIANT NEW HIGH SCHOOL RISES AT KENSINGTON



KINKORA IS ALSO SITE OF LOW, FLAT MODERN SCHOOL

The largest production ever staged by the Summerside High School Theatre Guild, and probably one of the largest dramatic performances shown in Summerside for some time will be presented January 15, 16, 17 when the Broadway musical play "The King and I" takes to the stage in Summerside's Civic Auditorium.

Produced and directed by Lionel Dixon, the musical has had continuous rehearsal by the cast since the early part of October.

"The King and I" was first presented on the stage in 1951 when it became a Broadway hit, starring the late Gertrude Lawrence and Yul Brynner. The play was later made into a movie.

It is the story of the adventures of an English governess at the royal court of Siam which takes place sometime in the early 1800's.

EASTERN SPLENDOR
The play presents the splendor of the east and its conflict with the new and advanced ideas and trends of the western world which are portrayed in many dramatic and humorous events throughout the production.

The tuneful musical score by Richard Rodgers includes such favorites as "Hello Young Lovers", "I Whistle a Happy Tune", and "Shall We Dance". The ballet portion of the play tells in Siamese style the well-known fable of Uncle Tom's Cabin. The show holds for any audience a ready supply of laughs and tears as the cast performs this powerful musical.

A cast in excess of 80 is engaged to present the musical. They are students from Summerside high school and several of the Summerside elementary schools. The production team, working behind the scenes with such tasks as make-up, lighting, props has some 30 people, all students.

An indication of how much work is involved to prepare a musical production is borne out by an estimate of time spent for rehearsal. Approximately more than 4,000 man-hours have come into the play in rehearsal alone; this does not include the 300 man-hours spent in stage and scenery construction—and these hours have all been put in outside of school time, so that study timetables have not been interfered with. Much of the rehearsal time has been spent on weekends.

FROM ENGLAND
Lionel Dixon, provincial drama advisor, last year produced and directed the successful musical "Oklahoma," and he again this year has done a splendid job with "The King and I".

Mr. Dixon came to Prince Edward Island from Durham, England in January 1962 to teach at Summerside high school, where he is head of the French department.

He was appointed to the post of provincial drama advisor Oct. 16. Mr. Dixon has a wealth of experience in stage and dramatic productions, having won, in his native England, the drama award for best actor and director in J.B. Priestly's play "An Inspector Calls".

He worked in a summer theatre, repertory theatre, television, taught drama and music and acted as adjudicator. He is also director for the Dominion Drama Festivals entry of Summerside Little Theatre Guild, a post he held also last year.

"Oklahoma" last year was the high school's first venture in the field of large-scale dramatics, having played two days. This year's production plays for three days, with a somewhat more "seasoned" cast as the amateurs develop—and to see the acting, anyone could easily be fooled. They certainly don't look like amateurs.

DIGNITARIES ATTEND
Scheduled to attend the opening night are: Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. F. Walter Hyndman; provincial minister of education, Malcolm MacKenzie and Mrs. MacKenzie and Summerside Mayor, J. Ernest and Mrs. Morrison.

"The King and I" is an original play based on a novel by Nova Scotia-born writer Margaret London. The novel was entitled "Anna and the King of Siam" which in turn is based on the memoirs of an English governess at the court of Siam by Anna Leonowens.

When the new "King and I" was first presented on stage in Broadway in 1951 it immediately became a smash hit and ran for over three years on both Broadway and on the London stage.

Many of the unsung heroes in the current production are at work behind-the-scenes. Mr. Dixon said he wished to give special recognition to Mrs. Mark Ferguson, physical education instructor at Summerside high school, who last year was responsible for choreography in "Oklahoma" and this year again is fulfilling the same position in "The King and I". Mr. Dixon said this was a particularly exciting cast as typical oriental ballet is performed.

He also commended James Blair, stage manager, a David Clarence Mercer, supervisor of Summerside schools, and David Lidstone, principal of Summerside high school for their active interests in the production.

Mr. and Mrs. David Cousins, Baltic, entertained Monday evening at a card party for the Baltic Women's Institute, which eleven tables of cards were in play. The ladies high score went to Mrs. Earle McKay and the gentlemen's high to Gordon Cousins, while consolation awards went to Mrs. George Wall and Darby Brown. The lucky chair prize was won by Elmer Casley. Delicious lunch was served by the hostess, assisted by members of the W.I.

Mr. and Mrs. W.G. Donald, Kensington were recent visitors to Summerside, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Burns. Mrs. Muriel Bryenton entertained the Malpeque and Baltic group of the United Church women at their January meeting on Tuesday evening with Mr. Kenneth Owen presiding. Next meeting is to be at the home of Mrs. Elmer Casley with Mrs. David Cousins for the worship and Mrs. Gerald Lockhart for the program leader.

BALTIC

Louis Fitzsimmons, Spring Brook has moved into Kensington, and taken up residence in the Pidgeon Apartments.

Little Deborah Douglas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Douglas, Norboro, is a patient in Prince County Hospital, Summerside.

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