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### Articles about drama events

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# ONE ACT PLAYS WIN APPROVAL

NORMAL CLASS IN DRAMATICS  
MAKES HIT WITH CLEVER  
ENTERTAINMENT.

One of the most unusual and interesting programs given at the Normal this year, was presented in Carney hall auditorium by members of the class in dramatics last evening. The program consisted of three separate and distinct plays, every member of the class taking some part in the evening's entertainment. The plays, which were given under the direction of Prof. J. R. Pelsma, showed clearly the time and effort which had been expended by the students in preparation for the entertainment.

The first of the three plays, entitled, "Two Crooks and a Lady" centered around "Miller, the hawk", played by John C. Wiedenmann, and his associate in crime, Mary Billy Cline, who acted the part of a maid. In their efforts to secure valuable jewels from Mrs. Simms-Vane, an invalid, a part played by Mrs. Edna Gormen, they proved false to each other, and finally ended in the clutches of the law. Every part was acted well, and the audience was kept in suspense until the final drop of the curtain.

The second play, "The Girl Upstairs," centered around the experiences of a stage struck girl, who ran away from her country home in search of an opportunity to begin a stage career. Although finally disappointed in her quest, she returned to her home and real happiness. The part was played by Miss Thelma Fowler, who was ably assisted by the other members of the cast.

The third and last of the program, which was perhaps the most unusual of the three, was staged in a public restaurant, the plot centering around two city girls, both of whom were crooks, but who pretended to be otherwise. After one of the girls had succeeded in shop-lifting considerable valuables from a department store, she was relieved of them by the other girl, who pretended to be a detective from the store. The two characters, Misses Birdie Francisco and Thelma Fowler, played their parts with ease, and kept the audience guessing as to what would be the final result.

Vocal solos were sung by Miss Cleta Capps and Miss Fern Mathes between acts, rounding out the evening's entertainment very successfully.

## Mc ARDEN PLAYERS SCORED HIT

Big Audience Liked Presentation of  
Edna Ferber's Comedy Drama

A play, "1200 a year," was presented by the Arden Players last Thursday evening in Carney Hall, to one of the largest audiences ever attending an entertainment given by the club. Practically the entire lower floor and part of the balcony were filled.

It would be unfair to distinguish any character or characters as individual stars, as every member proved entirely capable of handling his part. Troy Lane as "Paul Stoddard" successfully took the role of a young professor of economics who resigned his position in the college faculty to take up work in a mill. Opposite him Esther Nichols as "Jean Stoddard," his wife, played with charming simplicity. Euphemia Bales as "Tony Zsupnik," a mill worker, played her part to perfection, while Marion Cracraft as "Steven McClure," playing opposite her, provided much humor. J. E. Harrington in the part of Henry Adams Winthrop, professor of Greek, did an effective portrayal of character, while Louise Smith as "Frances" his daughter showed marked talent. Doris Starliper as "Martha" a servant, created a number of laughs. E. J. Meehan as "Chris Zsupnik" and Lena Townsend as "Mrs. Zsupnik," were genuine comedians in both actions and speech. Raymond Baker as "Professor Putnam," E. Hampton as "Professor Snell," and Eugene Sherman as "Professor Salsbury," played well the parts of aristocratic associates of Paul Stoddard. The part of "Cyrus McClure," mill owner and financial patron, was well acted by Prof. B. K. Baker.

Minor rolls were done adequately by Birdie Ziehlke as wife of Professor Putnam, Evelyn Skelton as the fiancée of Professor Snell, and William Beck as janitor and tailor.

The play is a study in pre-war economics. The scene of the play in a mill town where Paul Stoddard taught economics in Dinsmore University. Dissatisfied with his salary of \$1,200 a year as faculty member in comparison with the sum of \$30 a day paid the common mill hand he resigns to work in the mill. Of evenings he prepares lectures which he gives over the country Saturday nights and Sundays. He gains much notoriety, but his wife misses sadly the companionship of all their former friends. Stoddard influences so many professors over the country to resign that a number of schools has to close their doors. Cyrus McClure takes action in the matter by discharging Stoddard his job at the mill. Stoddard

## Playlets A Success

PELSMA'S PROTEGES SHOW  
DRAMATIC TALENT

College Orchestra, Under Direction of  
McCray, Contributes to Entertainment

"Outwitted," "The Unseen," "The Vacuum," and "Free Speech," three one-act plays; were presented in Carney Hall Wednesday evening members of the Dramatic Art in the Public Speaking department. Music was furnished by the orchestra.

"Outwitted," the first of concerned two characters, James Sherman, played by Earley Eighmy, and Sophia, a beautiful French girl, played by Birdie Francisco. Sherman, a government secret service man, was endeavoring to smuggle important papers out of a foreign country when overtaken by the girl who unsuccessfully tried threats, ruses, and "vamping" to obtain possession of them. She confessed at last to Sherman that she, too, was a government operative from America sent just to "test him out." The interpretation of both characters was excellent.

In "The Unseen," S. E. Franklin played the part of an irate husband who believed that unseen forces were always wresting success from him. Iris Miller, his wife, and Isabel Wade as the Swedish maid, supported him ably. The maid seemed always to be doing the wrong thing at the wrong time, and she so exasperated the husband that he openly threatened violence to her until it was learned that one of her "errors" has saved his life—then all was "lovely."

Earley Eighmy did good work in the third play, "The Vacuum." He portrayed the part of a scientist who arrived home unexpectedly to find his wife playing the part of a "hypotenuse" in an eternal triangle with a supposed friend of his. On discovering that his wife had secreted the "friend" in a vacuum cabinet, an invention of his, he calmly exhausted the air from the cabinet, killing the "friend" despite the shrieks and pleadings of his wife. Lola Hoover did remarkable work in her portrayal of the beautiful girl-wife, and Shelly Pearce as the "friend," did good work.

"Free Speech" showed a glimpse of life in Russia near the close of the World war. Eva Curley, Ola Watson, Dolores Hardman, Isabel Wade, Lola Hoover, and Iris Miller were Russian soldiers intent on killing Gladys Murphy, a prisoner. After much argument and while some of the members were exercising their rights of "free speech," their prisoner escaped.

The college orchestra under the direction of Prof. Walter McCray played five numbers: Selection from the "Fortune Teller" by Herbert, "The Evening Star" from Tannhauser, "Intermezzo Russe" by Franke, "Miserere" from 11 Travatore, and "Panquita" by Robyn. It is rare that a college entertainment is enhanced by so many high grade orchestral selections. The music was one of the distinct treats of the evening.

Prof. J. R. Pelsma directed the entertainment and had coached the actors. He requests that his appreciation of the orchestra's assistance be expressed.