

# A Chronology of Productions of SPS Theatre

Formerly known as SPS Dramatics Society/SPS Dramatics Guild/SPS Drama Society

Compiled by Paul Hedman

## 1939

November 1: Presentation of the play *Disraeli* directed by Francis Sampson (Des Moines). Orchestra under the direction of Rev. Mr. P. William Coates (St. Paul).

December 24: A Christmas Play entitled *House of Bread* was presented under the direction of Frank Schmitt (Omaha).

## 1940

May 2: Presentation of the play *Shadow and Substance* under the direction of George Garrelts (St. Paul).

November 21: *The Ends of Justice*, a play written and directed by the Rev. Mr. Francis Sampson (Des Moines), was staged under the auspices of the Mission Society.

December 24: The Nativity play, *The Man of Brynos*, written by Messrs. Jacob Weiss (Des Moines) and David Dooley (St. Paul), was presented with assistance of the Cretin Carolers.

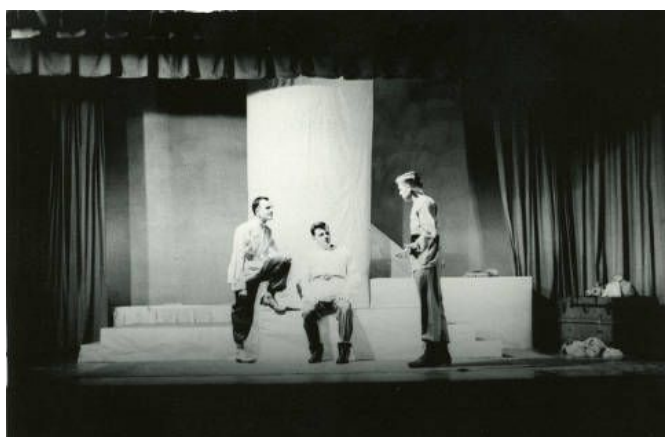
## 1941

April 25: The play *Falstaff*, abridged from Shakespeare's *King Henry IV*, directed by Mr. George Garrelts (St. Paul), was presented under the sponsorship of the Mission Society.

## 1943

April 4: The morality play, *Everyman*, was presented in the Aula under the direction of Mr. Henri Du Lac (St. Paul).

Right: Photo of *Everyman*. Left to right: James Lavin, Terrence Murphy, James Shannon.



## 1944

December 1: The play *Career Angel* was presented in the Aula under the direction of Henri DuLac (St. Paul) and starring Raymond Fournelle (St. Paul).

## **1945**

May 4: The play *Brother Orchid* was presented in the Aula under the direction of Mr. Ross Bigot (St. Paul).

## **1946**

December 24: The Christmas play *Shining in Darkness* was presented in the Aula under the direction of Mr. William Mehrkens (St. Paul).

## **1947**

April 30: A play, *The Tell Tale Heart*, directed by Mr. Ross Bigot (St. Paul), were presented in the Aula as part of an extensive F.R.P. (Foreign Relief Program) drive in progress at the Seminary.

December 24: The Christmas Program included the play *The Silence of God* directed by Rev. Mr. Ross Bigot (St. Paul) and presented in the Aula, and an original Christmas pageant which was written and directed by Mr. William Mehrkens (St. Paul) and enacted outside in the quadrangle.

## **1948**

December 24: Presentation of the play, *The Other Wise Man* and of an outdoor Christmas pageant both composed by Mr. Arthur Yzermans (St. Cloud).

## **1949**

December 24: Presentation of the play, *The Colonel's Mass* composed by William Mehrkens (St. Paul) and an outdoor Christmas pageant written by George Howard (Peoria).

## **1950**

December 24: Presentation of *The Man Born to be King*, written by Dorothy Sayers. Mr. James Storm (Peoria) directed the play.

## **1951**

April 21: Presentation of *Murder in the Cathedral*, a play by T. S. Eliot, in the Aula; adapted and directed by Mr. William Kelligar (Omaha).

December 24: Presentation of *Rehearsal for Christmas* written by Mr. Whitney Evans (Duluth). The play was directed by Mr. Edward Buttgen (Peoria).

## **1952**

November 29: *The Book Of Job* and *The Game Of Chess* were presented by the S.P.S. Dramatics Society.

### **1953**

April 18: The Dramatic Society of the St. Paul Seminary presented *Everyman*.

December 24: The Dramatics Guild presented an original play on the birth and boyhood of Christ titled *In Spirit and in Truth*.

### **1954**

April 4: The Seminary Dramatics Guild presented a two and one-half hour performance of Shakespeare's *Richard II*.

May 22: The Seminary Dramatics Guild presented two one-act plays, *Submerged* and *The Rising of the Moon*.

November 14: The Seminary Dramatic Guild presented George Bernard Shaw's *The Apple Cart*.

### **1955**

April 17: The Seminary Dramatics Guild presented Herman Wouk's *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*.

December 17: The Seminary Dramatic Society presented G. K. Chesterton's *Magia*.

### **1956**

Mar 11: The Seminary Dramatic Society presented *Scenes from Shakespeare*.

May 6: The play *Shadow and Substance* by Paul Vincent Carroll was presented to the students by the Seminary Dramatic Society.

December 1: The Seminary Dramatic Society presented Nikolai Gogol's *Inspector General*, a satiric farce in three acts.

### **1957**

December 14: The Seminary Dramatic Society presented Dalton Trumbo's play, *The Biggest Thief in Town*.

### **1958**

April 19: The Saint Paul Seminary Dramatic Society presented the play *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen.

### **1959**

November 28: The Seminary Drama Society presented an adaptation of Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's play, *Inherit the Wind*, done "in the round" in the school gymnasium for the faculty and students.

**1960**

April 30: The Seminary Drama Society presented an adaptation of the play *Arsenic and Old Lace*, in the Aula.

**1961**

November 18: The Drama Society presented *Edwin Booth*, a play by Milton Geiger.

**1962**

May 5: The Drama Society presented *The Solid Gold Cadillac*.

**1963**

November 9: The Drama Society presented *The Dream of Gerontius*, a dramatic reading by Cardinal Newman.

**1964**

May 16: *Romulus*, an historical satire by Gore Vidal, was presented by the Drama Society.

December 19: The Drama Society presented *The Prisoner*, by Bridget Boland.

**1965**

May 8: *A Cook for Mister Genera* presented by the Drama Society

December 7: The Drama Society presented three one-act plays.

**1966**

April 23: The Drama Society presented *The Mouse That Roared*.

December 10-11: The Drama Society presented Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, Part I.

**1967**

April 22-23: The Drama Society presented *Harvey*.

December 9-10: The Drama Society presented *J.B.* by Archibald MacLeish.

**1968**

November 23-24: Drama Society presented *A Man For All Seasons* by Robert Bolt.

*No information from 1969-2012*

**2013**

April 26-28: SPS Theatre presented *Saved By The Guillotine* - written and directed by Kyle Kowalczyk (St. Paul/Minneapolis).

**2014**

April 25-27: SPS Theatre presented *Murder and Mariolatry* - written and directed by Kyle Kowalczyk (St. Paul/Minneapolis).

**2015**

April 24-26: SPS Theatre presented *Death of a Liturgist* - adapted by Andrew Thuringer (Sioux Falls), from the book by Lorraine V. Murray.

**2016**

April 22-24: SPS Theatre presented *Moonshine Abbey* - a musical written and directed by Rev. Mr. Kyle Kowalczyk (St. Paul/Minneapolis) featuring music by Sam Backman.

**2017**

April 28-30: SPS Theatre presented Shakespeare's *Hamlet* - directed by Rev. Mr. Andrew Thuringer (Sioux Falls) and co-directed by Aric Aamodt (St. Paul/Minneapolis).