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### A Seraph Intercedes, 1956

Montana State University (Missoula, Mont.). Montana Masquers (Theater group)

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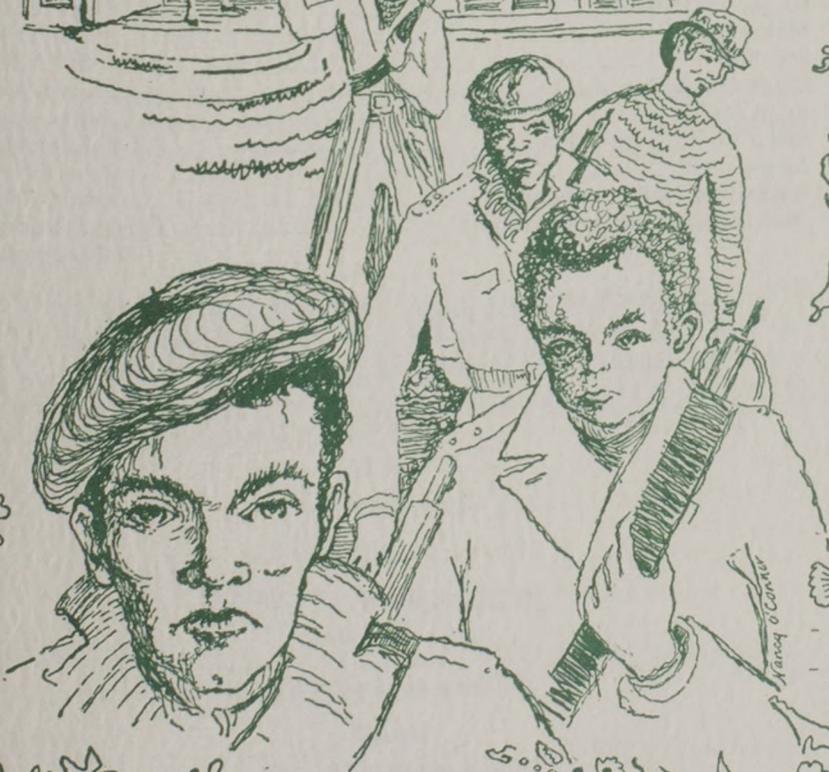
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# A Seraph Intercedes



SIMPKINS LITTLE THEATRE

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY • APRIL 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 '56

Fifty-First Season

# MONTANA MASQUERS

present

THE PREMIERE PRODUCTION OF

CARROLL O'CONNOR'S

## A SERAPH INTERCEDES

LeRoy W. Hinze, Director

Clemen M. Peck, Designer and Technical Director

### CAST

In Order of Appearance

Dermot Ryan .....	Harold Hansen
Fergus O'Donnell .....	Bruce Cusker
Maira Kieilty .....	Cyra Taillon
Joe Kenny .....	Bill Nelson
Denis Linane .....	Edward Gron
Brian McGowan .....	James Myhre
Major Philip Gore-Emrys .....	Clifford Hopkins
Jimmy Petit .....	Dan Hoffman
Sergeant of the Constabulary .....	Donald Calfee
"the Specials" (Reserve Police) .....	Edward Brodniak
	Richard Howell

The action of the play passes in the main room of a disused house in Northern Ireland, in a county whose borders touch the independent Irish Republic. The time is the present.

### SCENES

#### Act I

Early evening.

Ten minute intermission

#### Act II

Later that night.

Ten minute intermission

#### Act III

About ten minutes later.



## A SERAPH INTERCEDES

One need not know the history of "the one lost cause that never knew defeat", to appreciate a situation developed the world over where invaders and appeasers have driven resistance underground. The cause lives on, by constitutional pressure however conservative, or by physical force. The group who meet on an Ulster hill are guerrillas, sworn, all but one who is a businessman, to the second ideology.

Like bees annoying a watch dog lying on clover in shade of a honeysuckle hedge, they face being slapped down or "soft-swallowed". But they will not stop. They are the I.R.A., the Irish Republican Army, disbanded by De Valera in 1932, but never disbanding. They are the physical-force anti-partitionists. The police of Britain in Ulster, and of Eire in the twenty-six free counties, are on their trail. They answer ecclesiastical reprimands with, "This is an act of love; let heaven be our judge!"

Comedy? The Dog barks angrily and moves a bit from the hedge. The old lion in London, disturbed, roars softly, "Do something about those bees!" More soldiers, ammunition, and payroll arrive.

The pictured Old Testament seraph had a red coat, a child's head, little wings to speed him, innocent messenger of Jehovah's orders. In the play he has Humber wings. He is astonished to find where his natural craving for tea has brought him. He cannot believe these Irishmen who hold his schoolboy "old history" as reality.

This comic situation, a hair line from tragedy, would delight Meredith or Shaw, would perhaps even catch Leslie Fiedler with its end of innocence. The treatment is rewarding, a balance of the smile and the tear in Erin's eyes, an interweaving close to tragic of the twin threads of fanaticism and patriotism, a sure, controlled technique of serio-comic unexpected revelation of character.

— Mrs. Charles H. Clapp.