There Shall Be No Night, 1950

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

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THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT
Montana State University Theatre
and
Montana Masquers
present
ROBERT SHERWOOD'S
There Shall Be No Night

SIMPKINS LITTLE THEATRE
January 31, February 1, 2, 3, 4, 1950
LeRoy W. Hinze, Director
A. Wollock, Technical Director

CAST
(In order of appearance)

Dr. Kaarlo Valkonen ............................................. R. Don Lichtwardt
Miranda Valkonen .................................................. Bonne Lu Perry
Dave Corween ...................................................... Richard Haag
Photographer ....................................................... Gerald Navratil
Uncle Waldemar ................................................... Tom Sherlock
Gus Shuman .......................................................... Charles Schmitt
Erik Valkdonen ..................................................... Colleen Haag
Kaatri Alquist ..................................................... Jackie Loiselle
Lempi ........................................................................ C. G. Cromwell
Dr. Ziemssen .......................................................... Robert Ingman
Major Rutkowski ..................................................... Louis Elmore
Joe Burnett ........................................................... Bill Binet
Ben Gichner ........................................................... Arthur Lundell
Frank Olmstead ....................................................... Larry Kadlec
Sergeant Gosden .....................................................


TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Scene II. The Same. Late in November, 1939.
Scene III. The Same. The Next Day.
Scene IV. The Same. January 1, 1940.

TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Scene V. Dave Corween's Rooms in the Hotel Kamp, in Helsinki. Late in February.
Scene VI. Classroom in a schoolhouse near the West Shore of Viipuri Bay.
A few days later.

Produced by permission of Dramatists Play Service, New York City.

Scene VII The Valkonen's Living Room. A Few Days Later.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant to the Director ________________________________ Marguerite Mackin
Stage Manager ________________________________ Charles Schmitt
Costumes __________________________ Nancy Hays
   assisted by Audrey Linschied, Pat Prendergast, Betty Tracy, Isabel Gopian
Properties __________________________ Marie Krebsbach
   assisted by Doris Artzen, Betty Bell, Jamie Brennan, Patty Burnett,
   Georgie Fabert, Pat Ferguson, Molly Iler, Marilyn Kintner, Estelle McFarland, Betty Marble, Pat Pattison
Lighting __________________________ Robert Haight
   assisted by Walter Zwicker, Jack Yarnall, Ray Stoddard
Makeup ______________________________ Tom Roberts
   assisted by Maxine Taylor, Edna-Marie Thompson, Irene Stritch,
   Nancy Fields, Yvonne Kind
Assistant to the Technical Director __________________________ Nancy Fields
Staging ______________________________ Marybelle Fry
   Richard Haag, Robert Haight, Charles Schmitt, EDR 16 Class
Theatre Secretary ______________________________ Helen Hayes
General Publicity Manager __________________________ Marge Hunter
Box Office Manager __________________________ Bob Moran
Box Office Staff __________________________ Tom Roberts, Pat Olcott, Helen Hayes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank Mrs. H. O. Bell, Miss Mary V. Harris, Hefte’s Music Shop, the University Residence Halls, and the many individuals in Missoula who loaned us properties for THERE SHALL BE NO NIGHT.

Montana Masquer patrons are reminded that any gifts they may be able to make toward the costume and property departments will be gratefully received. Our production staff will call for such gifts; names and addresses of those caring to contribute clothing or furnishings may be left in the box office in this building. If you will telephone 3121, theatre extension, we will call for contributions.

COMING

ANTIGONE ________________ April 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
ROBERT EMMET SHERWOOD

Tall, gawky Robert Sherwood might be called the Lincoln of the American drama, if comparisons of this kind did not mislead as much as direct. Nevertheless, he has much of Lincoln's humor and moral earnestness, being deeply troubled over man's inhumanity to man. Impatient of our late entrance into World War I, he enlisted in the Canadian Black Watch. And years later, he was drawn to Franklin Roosevelt by what he thought was Roosevelt's idealism and world outlook.

But it is against crass brutality that Sherwood most quickly glows to white heat, his indignation revealing extraordinary dramatic power which shocks but yet does not leave us utterly abandoned.

Since 1927, the year he introduced himself to Broadway, Sherwood has had fourteen plays to his credit, ending with Miss Liberty (1949) and including such hits as Reunion in Vienna (1931), The Petrified Forest (1934), Idiot's Delight (1936), Abe Lincoln in Illinois (1938), and There Shall Be No Night (1940). In three of these, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne originally starred, that incomparable pair who have slapped, chased, fought, and loved each other so shamelessly in public that one lady was constrained to say, "Isn't it reassuring that they are married!"

There is little slapping or laughing in tonight's play, however. Rather, the plot unfolds like the sombre, haunting music of Finlandia, revealing love of country, comradeship, heartache, and quiet heroism. If, in the words of The Book of Revelations, "there shall be no night," there is surely prolonged twilight, difficult to distinguish from complete eclipse. To the high-souled Dr. Valkonen death for himself, his family, or his country men is better than appeasement. At least his daughter-in-law and his little grandson have escaped unharmed. And for us listeners, there are the stirring words of Pericles and Paul, which the patriot doctor includes in his final letter to his wife. These the playwright would have us accept with patience and understanding. Indeed, the last stage direction in the readers' version of the play reminds us that "There is a kind of peace in this Finnish-American home."

Rufus A. Coleman