A Cheap Bunch of Nice Flowers

By Edna O'Brien
CINEMA
at
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MICHAEL CODRON and WILLIAM DONALDSON present
A Cheap Bunch of Nice Flowers
by
EDNA O'BRIEN

Directed by
DESMOND T. O'DONOVAN

Setting and Lighting
by
BRIAN CURRAH

First performance at the New Arts Theatre, 20th November, 1962

SUSANNAH YORK (Leslie Hennessey). Born in London. Susanah York went straight from her theatre training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art to repertory at the Cornmill Theatre, Worthing. From here she began her meteoric rise to fame via television and film. An early television play, "The Elephant Man in the World," in which she made a personal impact, was followed by several including "The Cuckoo," and "The Tack, and the Horse." Meanwhile she had also played a small role in the Alec Guinness/Ivan Mills film "Taste of Glory," which led to a starring role in the Kenneth More film "The Gimpeng Summer." She then made the film "Freud" - an invitation to Company and Austria, and recently finished filming "Tom Jones.

ETTIE DUNNE (Winifred Hennessey). First joined the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, as a student in 1939, and was made a member of the Company the following year. With them played the title role in J. M. Synge's "Deirdre of the Sorrows," and made another personal success in "Countess Cathleen," the verse play by W. B. Yeats. Went to America in 1946 and opened another queen in "Pepe", in "Playboy of the Western World" on Broadway. Before coming to London for her first West End appearance, in "The Jest of Moonlight" at the Vaudeville. Since then she has played many times with the Dublin Gate Theatre Company, notably as "Ophelia," and as "St. Joan" in Anouilh's "The Lark." She was a member of the company when they presented "Hamlet" at Ettore in 1952, where she received a special award for her portrayal of "Ophelia." In 1956 she was a leading member of the company representing Ireland at the International Theatre Festival in Paris, where she was high tribute for her playing of the title role in Bernard Shaw's "Caesar." More recently, she made a great success in the title role of Beckett's "Mahter Courage" in Dublin, and made her last previous appearance in London in 1953 at the "Wiader Quiner," in "Playboy of the Western World" at the Piccadilly and St. Martin's theatre. Last year she starred in a Dublin Festival Company touring the Continent in "Caesar," and "Mrs. Warner's Profession," and her most recent tour abroad was as "Emilia" in "Othello" performed in Belgium, Switzerland, Holland and Luxembourg. Miss Dunne has also appeared in several films, notably including Paul Rotho's "No Breeding Place."
MARK KEAN (Charlotte Rose). A stalwart of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, from 1940 to 1961, Miss Kean was recently seen in London in the role of Mrs. Grundy in O’Casey’s “The Plough and the Stars” at the Mermaid Theatre, and prior to this played “Anna Livin’ Plain and Simple” in the Irish Rover play “The Voice of Sleep” at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, following its presentation at this year’s Paris Festival.

She has also appeared in many films, among them several with the Abbey Theatre Company, and other successes like “Romney,” “Jacqueline,” and “Stock Talk.” She was recently featured in the “Amateur” television play “The Irish Rogue.”

RAY MCALPINE (Budd Conner). Born in Donegal in 1939, Ray joined the Abbey Theatre Dublin, and has appeared in about two hundred plays with them. In the last five years he has won the Actor of the Year Award three times. In addition, he has directed about fifty plays for various groups— including one at the Abbey Theatre—has made over four hundred broadcasts in English and Gaelic from Radio Eireann, and is the Head of Drama at the National Academy of Theatre Arts, Dublin.

Featured in over half-a-dozen films, he also the role of Eamon in “Billy Budd” and Inspector Stanley in “Murder in Eden,” and has made several television appearances including the role of St. Francis of Assisi, in Hougan’s “Little Paris of St. Francis.” For television elevation this year, making his first appearance at the Irish Festival, this year, is his most recent theatrical version was as an “Amateur.”

A rocket in “Murder in the Cathedral” at the 1962 Dublin Theatre Festival.

REGINALD BARRATT (The Professor). Born in Birmingham, Reginald Barrett appeared in repertory at Working, Windsor, Leatherhead, etc., and has made West End appearances in such diverse productions as Cole Porter’s pantomime “Aladdin” at the Coliseum Theatre and Paddy Clancy’s play “The Tenor Man” at the Comedy Theatre. He recently played the role of Daves in a special production by Donald MacWhirter’s “The Comedienne,” and has made over 150 television appearances. His hobby is photography, and he enjoys going to live to be as old as the parts he plays.

DECLAN HARVEY (Shonen Tracy). Born and educated in Dublin, he appeared when still a child in various radio productions there. After he had left school he was trained for a career in the hotel business, and worked in various hotel in Germany, Switzerland and France. But the call of the stage was too strong, and he returned to Britain to study at the Corona Academy of Theatre Arts in London. Here he trained for four years, during which time he also made television, film and theatre appearances. Before returning to Dublin again last year to appear in “Death Watch” at the Dublin Festival, he was seen in the television “Amateur Theatre” series as the German soldier in “Roll On, Bloomin’ Death.” Now twenty-six years old, Declan has also appeared at Dublin’s People’s Theatre. His most recent television appearance was in the BBC production of Bernard Shaw’s “Their Rehearsal’s Conversion.” Apart from his appearance at the Mermaid Theatre in the Poetry Festival last year, this is his London stage debut.
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