

# PEOPLE. *and their* Interests

## Repertory, Little Theatre With Big Ideas

**T**O the little theatre groups, the public of Queensland owes much; for first-class entertainment ceaselessly afforded and for chances provided to talented amateurs. Brisbane's oldest group—the Brisbane Repertory Theatre—has contributed a great deal to the State's cultural advancement, as this interesting summary of its activities will illustrate. The Brisbane Repertory Theatre was formed in 1925 "for the stimulation of all that is best in drama and the regular production of plays of literary merit" which the people of Brisbane might not otherwise have the opportunity of seeing.

It is the oldest and one of the most active societies in the city. In its 24 years Repertory has presented over 140 plays, the performances of which have gained high acclaim from an appreciative public.

**Repertory was formed by Professor Stable, Professor of English Literature at the**

**University of Queensland. He guided its destiny for over 20 years as its president. Professor Stable is now a patron. The senior patron is His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Lavarack.**

Entirely non-profit making, its interests are solely devoted to the advancement of culture in the field of drama. It has numbered among its members for many years George Landen Dann, an Australian playwright and native of Brisbane, whose plays have won numerous prizes in nation-wide competitions and have been produced in every capital city in the Commonwealth. Some have been

every capital city in the Commonwealth. Some have been broadcast by the A.B.C

Unfortunately, the society does not have its own theatre, but presents its plays in the Albert Hall, which has comfortable seating accommodation for over 600 persons and reasonably good acoustic properties.

Six major plays are produced each year during the Repertory season—from March to December—and each show plays for three nights. A season of one-act plays is also included in their program.

Although they do not conduct a drama school in the strict sense of the word, the officers do give new and ambitious members training in stagecraft and writing of plays, and for that purpose have monthly meetings at which the players are instructed in one-act plays and advanced actors present the works of new authors.

Junior producers are in charge of these productions and lectures are given from time to time on allied subjects. Each play may have a decor group, and senior producers are always available to give advice at any time on all points from settings to make-up.

The library of over 350 books of plays and theatrical subjects is available to members.

Repertory stands firmly behind all cultural activities in the city and has done much to assist country societies, mainly at Ipswich, Toowoomba, Stanthorpe, Nambour, Rockhampton, Townsville and Mount Isa.

Whenever possible, they take their plays to country towns and military convalescent hospitals. It is also the theatre's policy to offer each first night as a benefit performance for some worthy charity. A full-time secretary is employed and the business of the theatre is conducted from week to week

the business of the theatre is conducted from week to week by an executive committee of six who act on behalf of the council and adhere to a policy of furthering interest in things of the legitimate stage.

Repertory is currently busy with rehearsals for "Much Ado About Nothing," which Daphne Roemermann will produce at the Albert Hall for a season commencing July 20.

The cast includes such well-known names as Coila McCracken, Blair Hefferan, Alan Denby, Joseph Holt and Enid Elliott (the brilliant blind Brisbane actress). The costumes are being made by the theatre's wardrobe group under the supervision of Mrs. Dion Wheeler.



Muriel Burton who, as secretary of the Brisbane Repertory Theatre, provides "Truth" readers with these interesting facts about another of Brisbane's Little Theatre groups.