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PRESENTS

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by Mark Reed

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1963

3

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Dascom Dinsmore	Arthur Wilks
Kimo	Dick Pierson
Kimo	
Sir James Fenton	Jack Mottat
Ethel Campion	Susan Collins
Little Seal	Vera Cowan
Snow Bird	Audrey Rothman
The Reverend Arthur Shapham	Frederick Hamblet
Captain John Landry	Bob Rothman
Clara Wilson May 10,	11 — Joan Regent Smith
May	17, 18 — Rosemary Eddy

The song, "Love Tiptoed Through My Heart," sung by Mr. Wilks at the end of Scene I, Act II, is by Frederick Loewe with lyric by Irene Alexander.

SCENES

- Act 1: A wireless station on the coast of Labrador on a November afternoon, 1935.
- Act II: Scene I: The same, Evening. Four days later.

 Scene II: A half hour later.
- Act III: The same, Afternoon. The next day.

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by Jack Moffat

One always delights in attending a party where the food is delicious, the guests charming, and the host enjoying himself and seemingly running the party by a magic wand that makes everything run smoothly and effortlessly. This kind of party is great fun, but it never just happens. It takes much planning and skill. As carefully hidden behind every successful amateur theatre performance is the same planning and skill. What happens in those weeks before the audience arrives?

The selection of the play is by no means a simple matter. A play reading committee will read at least twenty-five plays in order to select two, and these twenty-five are obtained by suggestions from

people who have sampled the fare elsewhere.

Once the menu has been chosen, one must get the right chef and the right maitre d'. The chef-director must have three qualities: intelligence to understand what he is doing, feeling to know how others will react to what is done, and the ability to get the most out of the people he is working with. He must have all the little skills the good chef does: how to keep the cream sauce from being lumpy, when to add a dash of what, what substitutions are possible in the recipe, and how to plan it all so that the meal is served piping hot.

(Continued on Page 14)

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PRODUCTION STAFF

Producer Maureen Moffat
Director Ruth Becker
Assistant Director Ann E. McDonough
Set Design & Construction Jack Moffat, Arthur Wilks
Artistic Consultant
Costumes Arthur Williams
Stage Manager Bob Freeman
Lighting Jack Seaman
Sound Effects Monte Warren
Make-up Jack Moffat, Pat Seaman, Maureen Moffat
Props Rosemary Eddy, Fran Osmer, Amy Penny
Publicity Director Bob Rothman
Posters, Displays Jack Moffat, Joan Jaschob
Program Advertisements Marguerite Luce, Monte Warren, Charles Smith
Casting Ruth Becker, Ann McDonough, Harriet Mountain, Joseph Ulrich, Arthur Williams
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(Continued from page 6)

The producer often appears as unnecessary to the guests as the maitre d', but his is the task of controlling the entire party and watching every detail. These "little" details never show except when they are wrong and so he, like the maitre d', often seems to be merely standing around. But those who are serving the guests know. Here are some of the little details the producer must watch.

Casting the play. Anyone who wishes to, whether he is a member of the NFCT or not, may try out for any part in any production. The producer must not only see that the best are selected, but before that he must see that the talented people attend the tryouts.

He must find a set designer and guide him so that the proposed set can be constructed to fit on the stage, can be constructed with materials available, is workable and within a budget. The producer must see that the set is built, is painted (with the special paint that can be washed off), that it meets the requirements of the play itself, the director's conception, and the mood of the production.

He must arrange for the furniture necessary—no small task when one realizes that furniture is borrowed. It is difficult enough to furnish a room properly when one can purchase exactly what he wants. Then, too, borrowed furniture must be picked up and returned.

He must see that the lighting technician has done his job properly. The more-than-twenty lights must be set at the proper angle, at the proper intensity, and operated magically. He must see that the proper costumes have been found. For the most part these are borrowed. This presents the same sort of difficulty the furniture does. He must find someone to find and borrow all the properties used on stage and someone to see that the actors have these when the action of the play requires them to.

Every performer on stage wears make-up of some kind. Royalties must be paid to the authors. Tickets must be distributed and sold. Publicity photographs must be taken. Newspaper stories must be written. The theatre must be clean. The program must be written and printed. The box office must be staffed. There must be ushers. And on and on. There is much more.

In the professional theatre, one hires the best talent one can afford for all the jobs. At the NFCT, no one is paid for any of his services. Volunteer workers are never easy to find and usually difficult to supervise. Since the amateur producer does not have the power of the paycheck, his task is not only large, but difficult.

But when the night of the party arrives, if the guests are having fun, if the director-chef has served a particularly tasty meal, if all is running smoothly, the producer is not upset when the guests wonder what he is needed for. He has organized a successful party and enabled a lot of people to have a good time. What more could anyone want?

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