

Chapel Theatre Production of 'Devil's Advocate' Continuing

BY BETTY SHROEDER
Chapel Publicity Director
Chapel Theater, playing to "standing room only" audiences viewing the current production of "The Devil's Advocate," continues to astound audiences with the professional-type performances given by each in this dynamic collection of actors.

Although a somewhat lengthy play, no one seems to mind as this is one of the most absorbing and intriguing plots full of suspenseful and emotional episodes.

This has been an extremely difficult production in many ways for Chapel Theater to attempt, but all obstacles have been overcome through the capable efforts of the director, Gladys Manu of Wilmington.

THE MANY SCENE changes, which have to be accomplished completely in darkness (the curtains are not drawn so as not to lose the moods) are smoothly handled by the backstage crew under the direction of Sam Manus and Rudi Medina who are stage managers. The props are manipulated by Phyllis Palmer, who is responsible for set dressings, Carolyn Schroeder, Diane Barrera, Jim and Mariena Sena.

One of the difficult chores in this production is the numerous and varying lighting effects which are managed by George Bingham with sound effects by Grover Palmer. These are the unsung heroes of each performance in any production—the backstage crew, and with the many difficult and swift scene changes, many plaudits are extended to Steve Sands who designed the set. The flash-backs are skillfully maneuvered through the combined efforts of the lighting and prop experts.

THE MANY remarks submitted by the audiences through the forms which are available after performances are most complimentary for director, cast, and crew. And well they may be, as each actor gives a devoted characterization to each challenging role, thereby delivering splendid portrayals.

Tom Lowry of Los Angeles plays the dying priest who finds peace and friendship through his investigation re-

garding honoring a dead soldier with sainthood. Lowry's dignified and humble manner and depth of character projects force and serenity at the same time making his a true to life character.

Maxine Dessau of Hollywood Riviera as Nina the lover of Nerone gives an unforgettable performance. Her portrayal is

stirring, full of fiery, expressive and tender emotions, making the audience actually feel each emotion as she lives it.

FRED WEST of Playa Del Rey, best known for his roles in musicals and comedies, is notable in his portrayal of a Jewish doctor in a Catholic hospital. His compassionate

portrayal of this displaced doctor is played with much skill and authority with some touches of humor.

One of the more difficult roles is portrayed by Lyle Smith of Manhattan Beach as Black, the frustrated artist who wants only peace and happiness in life, but who finds neither. Smith's sensitive char-

acterization of this man, plagued by conflicting emotions, sustains the audience's complete attention throughout his brilliant performance, building up to his last high-pitched emotional and dramatic scene.

Ed Gangel of Manhattan Beach as the ill-fated Nerone gives much quality and depth

in his portrayal of the man who is a candidate for sainthood, with warmth, dignity, and understanding of his fellow man.

ALTHOUGH THE following are lesser roles, each is an important factor in the unfolding of this human and dramatic story of Nerone. Jack Daly of Redondo Beach is most natural and effective as the sympathetic bishop; Margie True of Manhattan Beach is quite unaffected yet sophisticated as the Contessa; Noel Shire of Torrance as the youthful Paolo en-

gages the favor of the audience with his brashness; Rudi Medina of Redondo Beach as Father Anselmo interjects much humor as the wine-sipping priest; Dennis Morgan of Inglewood as Il Lupo the enemy military leader portrays his role of the villain with much force and effect; Walter Reese of Palos Verdes is quite impressive as the Cardinal; and Connie Pollock of Hermosa Beach as Mrs. Martino is very natural in the emotional and dramatic scene.

"The Devil's Advocate" by

Dore Schary from the novel by Morris L. West has everything that one could desire in an evening's entertainment at the theater—mystery, pathos, humor, and a cleverly unfolded plot which holds the viewers attention throughout. Three more weekends remain for the showing at Chapel Theater, 4164 Pacific Coast Hwy., Torrance. Reservations may be made by calling Box Office, FR 2-9636. Admission is \$1.50 Fridays and Sundays, \$1.75 Sat. urdays, with curtain time at 8:30 p.m.

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ILLINOIS ASSIGNMENT . . .
Airman Basic Kenneth L. Robertson, son of Mrs. Marian E. Erickson of 1711 Schilling Dr., is being reassigned to Chanute AFB, Ill., for technical training as a United States Air Force electrician. He is a 1959 Torrance High graduate and attended El Camino. His father, Dee L. Robertson, resides at 22516 S. Normandie Ave., Gardena.

Five Placed On Honor Roll

Five Long Beach State College students from Torrance have been placed on the college's scholastic roll. The honor roll requires at least an A minus average. The students are Robert D. Brannon of 20701 S. Berendo; Bonnie F. Isabel of 2173 W. 237th St.; Maureen H. Okada of 20907 S. Denker; Jack T. Patton of 1130 W. 228th St., and Thomas M. Smoot of 2517 Sonoma St.

The honor rolls are compiled on the basis of all work done at Long Beach State. To be eligible for the current lists, a student must have been enrolled for the fall semester.

Doctor Outlines Boxing Dangers

Dr. Charles O. Hopkins, psychologist, was awarded first place at the recent meeting of the South Bay Toastmasters Club with his speech, "A Three Pound Lump of Jelly," which emphasized the consequence of brain damage incurred in professional prize fighting. The club meets each Wednesday evening at 8:45 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Elks Club.

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