

SPOT
NEWS

The Living Newspaper

LIVING
DRAMA

VOL. I No. 2

WALNUT ST. THEATRE

Oct., 1938

SLUM HOUSING DRAMATIZED

AMERICA'S MOST WIDELY DISCUSSED PLAY OPENS IN CITY

The historic Walnut Street Theatre, oldest in the Nation, adds another page to its colorful history in the presentation by Federal Theatre of the Living Newspaper Drama . . . "one third of a Nation."

The Walnut has seen faces and names that are immortal, but no stage effects or production methods have been so startling, nor so dramatic, as are those utilized by James Light in this opening play of the current season.

Three levels on stage, a disembodied voice, slides and swiftly

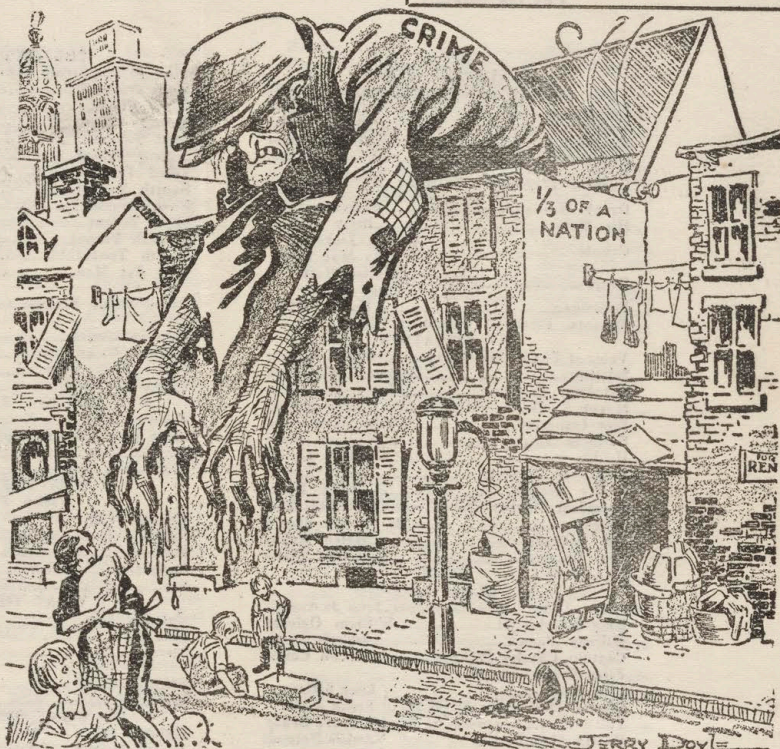
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CAREFUL RESEARCH ASSURES ACCURACY IN WRITING DRAMA

Federal Writers Project Assembles Remarkable Data

More thorough than a lawyer preparing a brief, research workers of the Federal Writers' Project, gathering facts and figures for the Philadelphia version of "One Third of a Nation," left little to the imagination of the script writers.

Innumerable newspaper accounts of "band-box" tragedies, chronicles of cholera epidemics and much data on the housing problem were combed for material. But even these sources, ordinarily considered accurate enough, were used as a basis for further research work, which led to actual court records, yellowed documents and verbatim reports of significant speeches.



Walter Winchell, in the New York Daily Mirror, stated: "The major episode of the week belongs to the Federal Theatre, which submitted a spell-binding document christened "One Third of a Nation."

Taking the original script, as written by Arthur Arent to cover the New York housing situation, and revising it to portray Philadelphia's own problem was a task that required painstaking study of Philadelphia's housing history, as far back as the arrival of the first white settlers. Some of the work would have been more in the line of a title searcher, but perhaps more difficult, for

this was a hunt for dramatic situations as well as factual information.

So startling are some of the facts revealed in "One Third of a Nation" that no opportunity for denials was permitted to slip by unnoticed. Each statement is thoroughly documented and the complete bibliography is printed in other columns of this program.

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All sources of material quoted in "One Third of a Nation" may be examined upon application at the Library of The Federal Writers' Project, Municipal Pier 4, foot of Chestnut Street.

HALLIE FLANAGAN
National Director

FEDERAL WORK PROGRAM THEATRE

HERBERT H. HUMPHREYS
State Director

Presents

BLANDING SLOAN
Regional Director

The Federal Theatre Project is part of the WPA program. However, the viewpoint expressed in its productions is not necessarily that of the WPA or any other Agency of the Government.

This version of "ONE THIRD OF A NATION" especially adapted for production in PHILADELPHIA by EDWARD MALLE, in collaboration with HAROLD BERMAN, by arrangement with the Playwriting Department of Federal Theatre's NATIONAL SERVICE BUREAU, under the supervision of BEN RUSSAK.

"ONE THIRD OF A NATION"

A Living Newspaper About Housing

By ARTHUR ARENT

Directed by MR. JAMES LIGHT

Setting by:
Cecil Conway,
Charles Naylor.

Costumes by:
Martha Decker.

Gertrude Sharkey,
Production Supervisor.

Original Music by:
Lee Wainer.

Phila. Arrangement by:
Louis Van Es and Harry
Filler.

Federal Theatre Orchestra
Directed by:
Louis Van Es.

ACT I COLLAPSE! FIRE!

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Father—Wm. E. Green
Mother—Helen Stokes
Daughter—Margaret Walker
Daughter—Cinette Wilson
Checker Players—Henry Boyd
Drunk Husband—Wm. Chapman
His Wife—Clarence Basil
Couple—Betty Sawyer
Couple—John Jackson
Couple—Willa Mae Kirby
Couple—Charles Hart
Policeman—Katie Barnes
Tenants, Firemen, Onlookers, Etc.—Henry White

INVESTIGATION

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Solicitor—Arthur LeTourneau
Abraham Samson—Meyer Honigman
Mayor S. Davis Wilson—George Seldon
Fire Inspector—Ralph Kemmerer
Building Inspector—William Jones
Health Inspector—Bob Girard
Lessee of Property—Harry Cantor
Realty Broker—John Denzi
President Fidelity Phila. Trust Co.—Michael Gray
Judge—J. Barney Sherry
Mrs. Jackson—Helen Stokes
Mrs. Brown—Lottie White

LAND (Bonus Lots)

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
King Charles II—William Oglesby
William Penn—Joseph Lewis
Captain Charles Holme—Lon Carter

First Group:

First Man—Leon Saffren
Second Man—EARLY
Third Man—SETTLERS
Fourth Man—Bernard Grady
Fifth Man—Attilio Naimoli

Second Group:

First Man—Alfred Camarota
Second Man—Attilio Naimoli
Third Man—Leon Saffren
Fourth Man—Frank Aiello
Fifth Man—John Federico
Sixth Man—Sylvan Cascarino
Seventh Man—Maurice Rodell
Eighth Man—Samuel Weintraub
Aged Woman—Minnie Mersereau
Her Step-son—Charles Carcione
Short Man—Bernard Grady
Tall Man—Charles Winter
Town Crier—Hugh Graham
Fat Man—John Lott

THE CITY GROWS

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Land Owner—John Lott
Town Crier—Hugh Graham
Second Voice—Hugh Graham
First Tenant—Michael Gray
Second Tenant—George Seldon
Third Tenant—Harry Cantor
Fourth Tenant—John Denzi
Fifth Tenant—Stella Tracey
Sixth Tenant—Ralph Kemmerer
Seventh Tenant—Margo Merrill
Eighth Tenant—William Jones
Very Fat Man—Harry Fields

Three Home Seekers—Joseph Garcia
Attilio Naimoli
Frank Aiello

Stephen Girard—Phillip Ernest
William Weightman—Hugh Graham
John Jacob Astor—Al Rae
James Gordon Bennett—Louis Sagar

LOOKING BACKWARD

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Little Man (Mr. Buttonkooper)—Bert Griscom
Guide—Jesse Weiss
Charles A. Poulson—Al Rae

WHY THEY CAME (Irish Family)

Episode (A)
Father—James Rowland
Mother—Stella Tracey
Daughter—Ruth Tate
Son—Phillip Ernest

WHAT THEY SAW

Episode (B)
Joe—James Costigan
Steve—Bernard Grady

WHAT THEY GOT

Episode (C)
Jewish Father—Jewish
Jewish Mother—Family
Doctor—Al Rae
Woman Patient—Princess White Cloud
Daughter—Helen Schofield
Nurse—Margaret Hornbach
Mother—Minnie Mersereau
Sick Son—Charles Carcione
First Orderly—Alfred Camarota
Second Orderly—James Coleman
Man—Bernard Grady
Emaciated Man—Phillip Ernest
First Newspaper Reporter—Arthur LeTourneau
Second Newspaper Reporter—Attilio Naimoli
Dr. James Parrish—J. Barney Sherry

CHARACTERS

APPOINT A COMMITTEE

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Little Man—Bert Griscom
CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE:
John A. Elkinton—Joseph Lewis
Dr. Wilson Jewell—William Oglesby
Dr. Isaac Parrish—Barney Sherry
Announcer of Statistics—Louis Sagar
Mayor of Philadelphia (1849)—William Jones
MAYOR'S COMMITTEE:
First Committee Member—Harry Fields
Second Committee Member—Pedro O'Nesti
Third Committee Member—Harry Cantor
John Lindsay, President of the Board of Health (1849)—Ralph Kemmerer

RENTING

Three Charwomen:
Conceived and Directed by—Malvina Fried
First Charwoman—Ann Kushman
Second Charwoman—Edna Silverman
Third Charwoman—Miriam Carls
Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Little Man—Bert Griscom
Landlord—Lon Carter

Italian Family:
Agent—Frank Aiello
First Apartment Seeker—Pedro O'Nesti
Second Apartment Seeker—Joseph Garcia
Third Apartment Seeker—Nan Forrest

Young Couple:
Man—Bernard Grady
Woman—Helene Schofield
Agent—George Seldon
James Rowland
Laura Emerson
Sylvan Cascarino
Fritzi Clearfield

Another Family:
Father—John Lott
Mother—Princess White Cloud
Young Boy—Charles Carcione
Grandfather—John Denzi
Granddaughter—Theresa Murray
Agent—Charles Winter
Jewish Couple:
Man—Meyer Honigman
Woman—Margo Merrill
Elderly Man—Joseph Lewis
Apartment Seekers:
First Woman—Clara Cohen
Second Woman—Lillian Beerman
Third Woman—Rhoda Cutler
Man—Maurice Rodell

ACT II

THE LAW

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Voice of the House—Joseph Lewis

First Man—Announcers—Lon Carter
Second Man—of the Law—Louis Sagar
Bernard J. Newman—Arthur LeTourneau
Michael J. Bradley—James Rowland
Mayor J. Hampton Moore—Al Rae
Mrs. Frank Miles Day—Margaret Hornbach
Francis Shunk Brown—J. Barney Sherry
Mrs. Ferdinand Dilsheimer—Connie Evans

CROSSTOWN

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Little Man—Bert Griscom
The Guide—Jesse Weiss

STREET KIDS

Episode (A)
Frankie—Attilio Naimoli
Joe—Frank Aiello
Sammy—Alfred Camarota
Tony—Charles Carcione
First Woman—Announcers
Second Woman—of Statistics
Margaret Hornbach
Princess White Cloud

KENSINGTON

The Husband—Ralph Kemmerer
The Wife—Ada Howard

YOU AND YOUR WIFE

Episode (C)
Mrs. Angus K. Buttonkooper—Stella Tracey
Mr. Angus K. Buttonkooper—Bert Griscom
Application Clerk, Hill Creek—Phillip Ernest
HELL'S HALF ACRE
(Philadelphia's Harlem)
A Stevedore—Norman Johnson
A Bootblack—Clarence Basil

THE RENT STRIKE

Episode (D)
First Woman—Minnie Mersereau
Second Woman—Laura Emerson
Third Woman—Theresa Murray
Fourth Woman—Connie Evans
Fifth Woman—Margo Merrill
Sixth Woman—Gladys Seldon
Mrs. McNamara—Minnie Mersereau
Tenant's League Organizer—James Costigan

WHAT PRICE HOUSING

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Little Man—Bert Griscom
The Guide—Jesse Weiss
Landlord—Bob Girard
Land Owner—John Lott
First Broker—Harry Cantor
Second Broker—John Denzi
First Building Supply Man—John Federico
Second Building Supply Man—William Jones
Contractor—Attilio Naimoli

Original research compiled by the Editorial Staff of
The Living Newspaper

PHILADELPHIA research incorporated in this production was prepared by The Federal Writers' Project, under the supervision of AUBREY H. BALDWIN.

Banker—Michael Gray
President Mortgage Company—William Oglesby
TAX COLLECTORS
First Man (Government)—Charles Carcione
Second Man (State)—Samuel Weintraub
Third Man (City)—Frank Aiello
Fourth Man (County)—Leon Saffren
Fifth Man (Insurance)—Sylvan Cascarino
First Woman (Renting Agent)—Ada Howard
Sixth Man (Janitor)—Harry Fields

ANNOUNCERS

First Man—Lon Carter
Second Man—Phillip Ernest
Nathan Strauss—J. Barney Sherry

GOVERNMENT HOUSING

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Little Man—Bert Griscom
The Guide—Jesse Weiss

SENATORS:

UNITED STATES
SENATE CHAMBER
WASHINGTON, D. C.
WAGNER-STEAGALL
BILL
President of the Senate, Vice-President
John Nance Garner—James Rowland
Clerk of the Senate—Phillip Ernest
Senator William E. Borah (Idaho)—Joseph Lewis
Senator Robert Wagner (New York)—Al Rae
Senator C. O. Andrews (Florida)—Louis Sagar
Senator Harry F. Byrd (Virginia)—Ralph Kemmerer
Senator Millard S. Tydings (Maryland)—James Costigan
Senators—Pedro O'Nesti
Meyer Honigman

LOOKING FORWARD

Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
Little Man—Bert Griscom
Voice of Bernard J. Newman—Arthur LeTourneau
Voice of Dr. John A. MacCallum—William Oglesby
Voice of Mayor S. Davis Wilson—Geo. Seldon
Voice of Judge Frank Smith—Barney Sherry
Land Owner (same as 1849)—John Lott
Landlord—Bob Girard
Mrs. Angus L. Buttonkooper—Stella Tracey

IN MEMORIAM

THE ENTIRE CAST! Arrangement by
Harry Filler
With
PHIL EDWARDS & HIS VOCAL ENSEMBLE
Voice of The Living Newspaper—John de Angelis
CURTAIN

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Business Staff
Promotion Manager, L. Howell Davis
Business Manager... W. J. Hagerty
Publicity Manager..... Jack Rose
Box-Office Treasurers,
 David L. Schwartz
 Edgar Stevens
 George Wiegand
Technical Staff
Supervising Technician, Ralph Bailey
Stage Managers . Harry Cahan
 Norman Johnson
 Hugh Graham

by De Forest and Veiller, Vol. 2; Slums and Housing, by James Ford; the record of the Wagner-Steagall Bill; Second Inaugural Address of President Franklin D. Roosevelt; records of the Pennsylvania Housing and Town Planning Association; records of the Philadelphia Housing Authority; records of the Philadelphia Housing Association; records of the Tenants League of Philadelphia; records of the Armstrong Association; reports of Philadelphia Co-ordinating Housing Council; Philadelphia Real Property Survey; Suggested Standards for Families of Small Income, by Emily W. Dinwiddie.

FEDERAL WRITERS

continued

No holds were barred in getting down to the truth, and some prominent persons may regret their public statements of former years when those verbal skeletons rattle over the boards behind the footlights.

As the research work progressed, other members of the Writers' Project assembled the data and prepared a rough draft of the script. Then, in collaboration with Edward Malle and Ben Russak, of the Federal Theatre, Aubrey H. Baldwin, head of the Federal Writers' Project's Philadelphia unit, worked on the final copy of the script.

HOUSING

continued

shifting spotlights as well as direct quotations from the utterances of nationally famed experts on the subject with which the drama deals, all combine to make this production one of the most interesting and dramatic that the Philadelphia Theatre has witnessed for many years.

Herbert H. Humphreys, State Director of Federal Theatre, in his efforts to provide legitimate theatre for the thousands unable to attend higher priced performances, says: "In One Third of a Nation, we make no attempt to pin the blame for these housing conditions on any specific individuals. Our aim is to present the problem as it exists and to point the way towards a solution."

The original musical score, adapted especially for the Philadelphia version, was re-written by Louis VanEs.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Federal Theatre gratefully acknowledges the invaluable aid given by the following persons and organizations in the preparation of the Philadelphia version of "One Third of a Nation."

Bernard J. Neuman, Philadelphia Housing Association; Miss Dorothy Schoell, Philadelphia Housing Authority; Bernard Child, Tenants League of Philadelphia; Sidney Schulman and Richard Fernbach, Philadelphia Co-ordinating Housing Council; Adolph Seigrist, Philadelphia Real Property Survey, and John R. Helms, Pennsylvania Housing and Town Planning Association.

Pennsylvania Historical Society; Philadelphia Free Public Library; Philadelphia Library Company; Mercantile Library; Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce; Philadelphia College of Physicians; Filing Bureau of all Philadelphia Newspapers; Mayor S. Davis Wilson; Louis Wilgarde and Judge Frank Smith.

Department of Information:

FEDERAL THEATRE PROJECT, 1418 N. Broad Street, Fremont 5575.

Walnut Street Theatre, Box Office. Walnut 9400.

Special rates for theatre parties of 25 or more persons can be obtained. It is stipulated that organizations contracting for the theatre parties at reduced rates are non-profit or tax-supported bodies. For further information on these rates call or telephone W P A Federal Theatre Project, L. Howell Davis, Promotion Manager, 1418 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Fremont 5575.

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