



## Bit of Evil— Britishers Good In 'King Lear'

Play Sometimes Seemed  
Allegory of Modern Times

By HENRY BUTLER, Times Staff Writer

BLOOMINGTON, Aug. 1 — The Oxford University Players last night held a large auditorium audience at Indiana University spellbound with "King Lear."

In this exceedingly difficult play to enact, the young British visitors gave about the best student performance of Shakespeare I've ever seen.

With few cuts, they ran the five long acts and many scenes as three acts, relying on language, action, fighting and curtains to separate the episodes, evil in such a way that "King

Lear" sometimes seemed to be an allegory of modern times.

With great intelligence, they underscored one big theme of the play, which is that noisy lies can be more potent than quiet truth.

Even the least Shakespearean minded of us will remember Goneril and Regan (ugly names, aptly chosen) as Lear's falsely flattering daughters. We'll remember Cordelia as the honest daughter who couldn't care to her father's insatiable vanity. Those three names are bywords.

But Lear himself is a character most of us can't even attempt to imagine. And that's why I'm grateful to the Oxford Players, and particularly to Peter Parker, looking like an animated Michelangelo figure in the Lear role, for making the old king a credible person.

As Mr. Parker portrays him, Lear is not merely vain. He's energetic and imaginative way beyond his time. The tragic flaw in his character is that he lacks common sense. So the conspirators close in on him.

It's not a pretty spectacle as they get under way. In last night's performance, the dreadful scene where Cornwall (Ralph Hallett), husband of Regan (Josie) Richard, and marvelous as a female power-plant, gouges out the eyes of Lear's friend old Gloucester (Peter Dews), was ruggedly gruesome. I can still hear Mr. Dews' screeches for the gouges and whimpers in the interim.

Make what you will of the lesson for modern times. Ambition plus cynical deceit can raise hell.

But this production of "Lear," directed by David Williams, also is a lesson in superb acting and staging. These young players speak clearly and know how to indicate meaning with facial expression, gesture and bodily at-

titude. For just one example of many I lack space to command, let me praise Ronald Eyer's superb performance as the Fool.

Tonight the Oxford Players will do Ben Jonson's "The Alchemist" at 7:15 (DST) here. An erroneous announcement earlier had the schedule reversed.

The magnificent "Lear" produc-

tion will move to Purdue for performances in Fowler Hall at 8 p.m. tomorrow and Thurs-

"The Alchemist," Ben Jonson's comedy about the spiritualist-astrology-gold-making rackets in Jacobean London, will play in Fowler Hall Friday and Sat-

urday. If you want really thrilling lessons in how students drama should be done, see these British youngster. They're terrific.

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TACOMA

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PIXTON 3702 W. 10th

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OLD TRAIL 5700 W. Wash.

Olivia DeHavilland—Montgomery Clift "THE HEIRESS" Ralph Waldo Emerson "FATHER MAKES GOOD"

SPEEDWAY 560 Main St. 8:30 P. M. Doors Open 1:00

Ronald Colman "CHAMPAGNE FOR CAESAR" Richard Bennett "Harbor of Missing Men"

HOWARD 2300 N. Meridian

Gregory Peck—Dean Jagger "TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH" Bill Williams in Color "BLUE GRASS OF KENTUCKY"

SOUTH SIDE

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ZING EGYPTIAN Open 8:15

Cleaver Parker "GAGED"

Maureen O'Hara—McDonald Carey "COMANCHE TERRITORY" color

WED. "My Friend Irma Goes West" "Return of Frontiersman"

LOU Emerson 444 N. Meridian

TONITE 8:45 to 10:30 P. M. TAX

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John Payne "CAPTAIN CHINA"

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CIRCLE

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"The Seers Fair," with Claudette Colbert and Robert Ryan, at 11:15

2:30, 5:30 and 7:30

ESQUIRE

"Folies," Italian film, at 8:15 and 9:30

INDIANA

"Stella," with Victor Mature and Ann Sheridan, at 11:15, 2:30 and 10:30

"Love, Valentine," with John Sheaford, at 12:30, 3:30 and 6:10.

Sneak Preview at 9.

KEITH'S

"The Flame and the Arrow," with Bert Lancaster and Virginia Mayo, at 11:15, 2:30 and 4:15

"Fifty Years Before Your Eyes,"

narrated by Arthur Godfrey, at 12:15, 3:30, 8:15 and 9:30

LOEW'S

"Rogues of Sherwood Forest," with John Payne and William Holden, at 11:15, 2:30, 4:15 and 6:15

"The Man Who Came to Dinner," with Claudette Colbert and Richard Conte, at 12:30, 3:30 and 6:10.

LYRIC

"Open City," Italian film, at 8:30 and 9:30

CLAUDETTE COLBERT

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