10-21-1955

The Crucible

Otterbein University
THE CRUCIBLE

October 21, 22, 1955
THE CRUCIBLE
by Arthur Miller

Directed by Marion Chase
Technical Director—John Bullis*
Scenic Design—Bill Bale

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Betty Parris .......................................................... Nancy Furrey
Reverend Samuel Parris ........................................... John Bullis*
Tituba ..................................................................... Peggy Hall
Abigail Williams .................................................. Astriday Salnais*
Susanna Wallcott ................................................ Gail Bunch
Mrs. Ann Putnam ................................................ Mary Lou Stine
Thomas Putnam ................................................... Jim Eschbach
Mercy Lewis ......................................................... Donna Edwards
Mary Warren ....................................................... Linda Harner
John Proctor ........................................................ Duane Hopkins
Rebecca Nurse .................................................... Mary Ann Hopkins
Giles Corey ............................................................. Al Norris*
Reverend John Hole ............................................. Don Edwards
Elizabeth Proctor ................................................. Peggy Swartzel
Francis Nurse .................................................... Bill Bale
Ezekiel Cheever .................................................... Ralph Bishop
John Willard ......................................................... Marshall Cassady
Judge Hathorne ................................................... John Gallagher
Deputy Governor Danforth ..................................... Walter Bonnett

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I—Scene 1: A bedroom in Reverend Samuel Parris' house, Salem, Massachusetts, in the spring of the year 1692

Act I—Scene 2: The common room of Proctor's house, eight days later
(ten minute intermission)

Act II—Scene 1: Five weeks later. A wood

Act II—Scene 2: The vestry of the Salem Meeting House two weeks later

Act III—Scene 3: A cell in Salem jail, three months later
Historical Comments On The Play

This play is not history in the sense in which the word is used by the academic historian. Dramatic purposes have sometimes required many characters to be fused into one; the number of girls involved in the “crying-out” has been reduced; Abigail’s age has been raised; while there were several judges of almost equal authority, all of these have been symbolized in the character of Hathorne and Danforth. However, you will discover here the essential nature of one of the strangest and most awful chapters in human history. The fate of each character is exactly that of his historical model, and there is no one in the drama who did not play a similar—and in some cases exactly the same—role in history.

As for the characters of the persons, little is known about most of them excepting what may be surmised from a few letters, the trial record, certain broadsides written at the time, and references to their conduct in sources of varying reliability. They may therefore be taken as creations of the author, drawn in conformity with their known behavior.

Not long after the fever died, Parris was voted from office, walked out on the highroad, and was never heard of again. The legend has it that Abigail turned up later in Boston with a bad reputation.

Twenty years after the last execution, the government awarded compensation to the victims still living, and to the families of the dead. However, it is evident that some people still were unwilling to admit their total guilt, and also that the factionalism was still alive, for some beneficiaries were actually not victims at all, but informers.

Elizabeth Proctor married again, four years after Proctor’s death.

In solemn meeting, the congregation rescinded the excommunications—this in March 1712. But they did so upon orders of the government. The jury, however, wrote a statement praying forgiveness of all who had suffered.

Certain farms which had belonged to the victims were left to ruin, and for more than a century no one would buy them or live on them.

To all intents and purposes, the power of witchcraft in Massachusetts was broken.
PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGING—Richard Hayes, ch.; Stage Craft Class

SOUND—Fran Myers, ch.; Tom Lehman

LIGHTING—Betty Gibson, Al Kepke*, co-ch.; Floyd May, Gail Myers

MAKE-UP—Shirley Smith*, ch.; Ann Brubaker, Mary Atwood, Nancy Lucks, Earl Cline, Willa Chambers, Francine Thompson, Phyllis Van Meter, Alice Horner, Marilla Clark, Janine Erman

COSTUMES—Bev Brumley, Virginia Peck, co-ch.; Mary Roberts, Dolly Klaich, Billie Jo Geisler, Kay Dornan, Shirley Baker


PROPERTIES—Thelma Jean Hodson*, ch.; Paul Koons, Bob Studer

TICKETS—Everett Hodapp, ch.; Joyce Kistler, Marilyn Miller, Kay Fulcomer, Sally King, Pat Childs, Betsy Messmer, Pat Silver, Lorraine Bliss, Robert Fulton

PUBLICITY—Bill Replogle, ch.; Judy Vance, Bill Skaats, Sally Stefanni, Julia Nichols, Tony Chiarmonte, Betty Gibson

PROGRAMS—Eva Holmes, Betty Gibson

*Members of Theta Alpha Phi, National Dramatic Honorary Fraternity.

This production was presented by Theta Alpha Phi and Cap and Dagger.