

2017

National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities (1965-1967): Booklet 01

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PROJECT DISCOVERY

*an adventure in living theatre
for the youth of Rhode Island*

A Program offered to
THE SECONDARY SCHOOL
SYSTEMS OF RHODE ISLAND

by

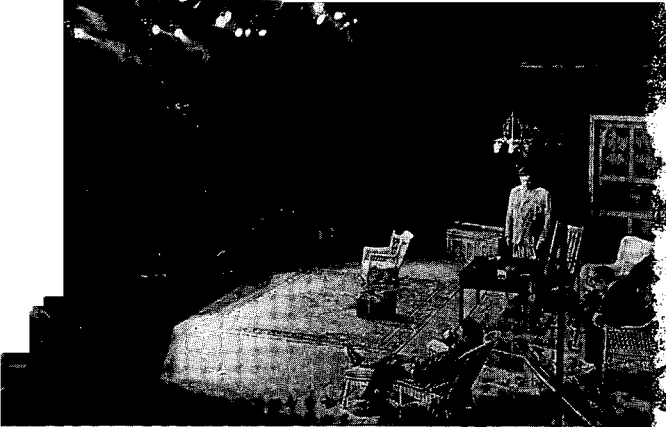
THE TRINITY SQUARE
REPERTORY COMPANY

under grants from

THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

and

THE UNITED STATES OFFICE
OF EDUCATION



Q *What is 'Project Discovery'?*

A 'Project Discovery' is a program under which every senior high school student in the State of Rhode Island will be able to see — as a regular part of the educational program — four different plays of importance in dramatic literature performed during the 1966-67 school year by the Trinity Square Repertory Company.

Q *What is the Trinity Square Repertory Company?*

A It is a company of professional actors, directors, designers, and theatre production specialists drawn from all over America which has been producing plays in Providence since 1964. The company is operated by The Foundation for Repertory Theatre of Rhode Island, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization governed by a board of directors of community leaders from throughout the state.

Q *Does the program include Catholic and other private high schools?*

A Yes. It includes every student in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade in every high school in the state.

Q *How is the program being financed?*

A 'Project Discovery' is being financed by grants from the Federal Government's National Endowment for the Arts (a part of the National Foundation for the Arts and Humanities) and Titles III and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 which is administered by the United States Office of Education.

Q *What do these grants pay for?*

A

- All major production costs for the four plays, including costumes, scenery and lighting, rehearsal and crew expenses.

- Bus transportation for students and teachers to and from the Trinity Square Repertory Company performances of the four plays at the Rhode Island School of Design Theatre in Providence.
- Salaries of the actors and staff for the performances given.
- Preparation of study materials and in-class programs to prepare students to fully enjoy the four performances.
- School administrative expenses for organization of the program.
- Establishment of a laboratory situation in which a series of exploratory studies, relating to the use of live theatre in connection with the educational program of the schools, can be conducted by an independent research organization.

Q *Have other similar grants been made in the U. S.?*

A Yes. A similar program is being started in New Orleans, Louisiana, under comparable Federal grants.

Q *Why was Rhode Island chosen for this program?*



A Rhode Island became one of the two places to test the concept of an Educational Laboratory Theatre because the State's school systems were enthusiastic about the program's possibilities and because Rhode Island evinced the high degree of community support required to make the project a success.

Q *Why was the Trinity Square Company chosen as the producing company?*

A Site visits by members of the National Council on the Arts indicated that, with the additional funds provided, the management and artistic standards of the Trinity Square Repertory Company could meet the goals and aims established by the Council for this project.

Q *How long will the program last?*

A Both the National Endowment for the Arts and the United States Office of Education hope that 'Project Discovery' will last a minimum of three years — subject, of course, to annual appropriations by Congress and the successful development of the project in terms of community response.

Q *What is its purpose?*

A The purpose of 'Project Discovery' is to discover whether the study of dramatic literature can be made more meaningful to students when they are provided with the opportunity to see plays brought to life by professionals in an actual theatre.

No one expects that music should be studied and enjoyed only by 'reading' musical scores in class. Nearly everyone accepts the necessity for musical organizations which perform musical works in order for them to be fully experienced and meaningful.

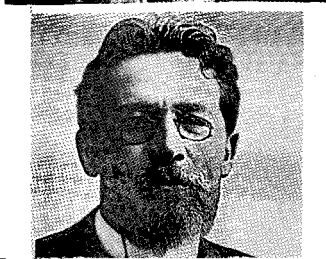
The study of dramatic literature is accepted as a valuable part of every high school curriculum. Some of the most important ideas of Western civilization are embodied in our theatrical writings. Yet, too often students remain unstimulated by the excitement these ideas hold — because drama is meant to be experienced in a theatre, not just read and analyzed in a classroom.

Q *What plays will be seen by the students this year?*

A "Saint Joan" by Bernard Shaw
"A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare

"Ah, Wilderness!" by Eugene O'Neill

"The Three Sisters" by Anton Chekhov



Q *How are the plays selected?*

A They are chosen by the Artistic Directors of the Trinity Square Repertory Company and the Secondary School Advisory Committee from a list of plays and playwrights most often studied in the high schools of Rhode Island. The choice is designed to offer as broad a cross-section of Western civilization's great dramatic literature in any one year as possible — as well as to round out the repertoire for the general public.

Q *What is the 'study program' part of 'Project Discovery'?*

A The study program is being developed by the Secondary School Steering Committee and the Trinity Square Repertory Company's Director of Educational Services. Present plans include printed background material on the plays, audio-visual aids, and a program of speakers from the theatre company working with teachers in classrooms throughout the State. As the project progresses, plans will be molded along lines which prove through experience to be most valuable to the teachers.

Q *Who is on The Secondary School Steering Committee?*

A Dr. William Burrell (Chairman),
Salve Regina College, Newport.

Miss Gertrude L. Madden, Hugh B. Bain High School, Cranston.

Miss Shirley Morin, Burrillville High School, Burrillville.

Mr. William Paxton, Moses Brown School, Providence.

Miss Beatrice E. West, Warwick Veterans Memorial High School, Warwick.

Professor Albert Cohn, Drama Department, Rhode Island School of Design.

Professor William Jordy, Art Department, Brown University.

Professor Maurice Klein, History Department, University of Rhode Island.

Mr. Anthony Russo, Director of Curriculum Research, Providence School Department.

Professor Abraham Schwadron, Music Department, Rhode Island College.



Q *How is the total program administered?*

A 'Project Discovery' is administered by the following Advisory Committee appointed by the Rhode Island Commissioner of Education:

Dr. Charles O'Connor (Chairman), Prov.

Mr. Edward J. Condon, Woonsocket.

Mr. James E. Conlon, South Kingston.

Mr. Henry J. Cooper, Coventry.

Mr. Edward J. Fitzgerald, Bristol.

Mr. Joseph H. Gaudet, Middletown.

Rev. Edward W. K. Mullen.

Mr. Charles E. Shea, Pawtucket.

Q *What will 'Project Discovery' mean to adult theatre-goers?*

A The four plays being performed for students are a part of the Trinity Square Repertory Company's regular season of seven productions. 'Project Discovery' makes it possible for the company to present to the general public seasons of greater variety and scope and even higher artistic quality. In order to produce plays of the type and calibre necessary for 'Project Discovery' and to perform them as many times as will be necessary, the Trinity Square Repertory Company has expanded its theatre and production facilities and greatly enlarged its artistic staff and professional acting company choosing from the finest talent in America.

PROJECT DISCOVERY

Seven Bridgham Street • Providence, Rhode Is

"The success of 'Project Discovery' in Rhode Island could easily usher in a new era for the teachers, the students and the theatre-goers of our country. Not only can it provide a new dimension and excitement for the teaching of dramatic literature in the schools but there is every reason to hope that it will be looked upon by future generations as a milestone in the history of American theatre."

ROGER L. STEVENS

Chairman,
National Endowment for the Arts

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