

Over 1000 Youngsters Attend 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'

Over 1,000 youngsters crowded the morning and afternoon performances of the childhood classic tale, 'The Elves and the Shoemaker,' in the Washington Junior High School auditorium, in an elaborate three act production by the Children's Playhouse of the Little Theater. The play was sponsored by the City Parent-Teacher Council, with Mrs. Gordon Sanctuary, production chairman, assisted by Mrs. Donald Lund and Mrs. Henry Huston. Various P.T.A. units acted as ushers.

Orderly groups monitored by teachers came also in busloads from the outlying schools, packing the auditorium brimful with appreciative exuberance.

The cast was under the direction of Mrs. Harvey M. Osgood, who was called to the stage at the climax of the play, to receive a huge bouquet of red roses from her youthful Thespians.

Especially attentive were the two audiences when the elfin music each time heralded the approach of the sprightly pixies in the counterpart of Scheryn Sprinchorn, James and John De Marco. They were made invisible by donning their jaunty hats, and fairly romped through their roles, with a perfection to which older actors aspire.

The stage setting was a colorful shoemaker's shop, with gay trappings, lighting and musical effects to heighten the action of the tale. James Bendo played the role of the kindly shoemaker, who makes his appearance at the climax of the play, after the elves have solved the wicked intrigue, and endowed the evil HeCla with a pair of magic shoes, which dispatches her in a skittering flight. Cynthia Carveth was excellent as the conniving busy body.

The role of the shoemaker's wife was played with beautiful perception by Mary Eileen Wetzen, who displayed a remarkable quality of voice and stage presence, with Fredrica Lindbeck, as her flaxen-haired daughter, in a meticulous exhibition of memorizing lines and stage business. Jerry



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Lou Miller sustained well her characterization of Ursula, the aging meddler, as did Nancy La Duke, as Dame Marjory, the royal customer for shoes, who wore an exceptionally fetching costume.

Carole Sprinchorn proved a convincing scold, with Janis Hansen, Carol Ann Bemus and Patricia Garliner rounding out the decorative cast, all wearing rare bits of colorful peasant costumery, with flouncy petticoats and lace-frilled caps in the old fashioned mode. The music and dance steps, which added delightful snatches to the old tale, were choreographed by Stanley A. Davis.

Mrs. Osgood's assistant, Mrs. Kenneth McKenzie was bookholder and assisted in rehearsing and costuming the participants. The stage make-up done by Miss Madeleine Rogers, Kurt Hammerstrom assisted the production staff, composed of Mr. Davis, George T. Bolton and Melvin E. Berg, at the two performances.

Mrs. Osgood entertained the participants for luncheon at her home, 17 Spruce Street, between the morning and matinee.