

# Runners-Up Share Heavily in Balloting

### First Five Places Include "Season," "King," "Tattoo," Kingsley, Van Druten

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March was next in line for his contribution to Autumn Garden. Coincidentally, March also was voted into fifth slot for his work in *An Enemy of the People*, with Louis Calhern just above him in fourth position for his fine portrait of King Lear.

Also noted elsewhere was the practically photo finish for best dramatic actress honors. Maureen Stapleton of *Rose Tattoo* came in second by a losing margin which should make her as proud as the winner, Uta Hagen. Pamela Brown (*Lady's Not for Burning*) was third in the running. Florence Eldridge (*Autumn Garden*) and Lili Palmer (*Bell, Book and Candle*) tied for fourth place, with Barbara Bel Geddes just behind them for her work in *The Moon Is Blue*.

Eliot Makeham of *Lady's Not for Burning* and Steven Hill of *Country Girl* followed winner Eli Wallach to the tape in that order for best supporting performance honors. Don Murray of *Rose Tattoo* was fourth and Charles Nolte (*Billy Budd*) and Jack Hawkins (*Romeo and Juliet*) drew a tie vote for fifth place.

Joan Loring (*Autumn Garden*) was closest contender to winner Phyllis Love (*Rose Tattoo*) for best fem dramatic supporting performance. Evelyn Varden was next for her performance in *Hilda Crane*. Ethel Griffies (*Autumn Garden*) and Barbara O'Neil (*Affairs of State*) finished in a fourth place tie. Marion Seldes (*Tower Beyond Tragedy*) was fifth.

Balloting for debut (actor) performances placed:

1. Clive Brook... *Second Threshold*
2. Richard Burton... *Lady's Not for Burning*
3. Cecil Parker... *Daphne Laureola*
4. Robert Sterling (*Gramercy Ghost*) and Don Murray (*Rose Tattoo*) were tied for fifth place.

Fem debut runners-up included:

1. Sarah Churchill... *Gramercy Ghost*
2. Batsy Von Furstenburg... *Second Threshold*
3. Stella Andrew... *Ring Round the Moon*
4. Anne Crawford (*Green Bay Tree*) and Maggie McNamara (*King of Friday's Men*) tied for fifth slot.

In the scenic department for straight plays, Boris Aronson's setting for *Rose Tattoo* was not rated too far behind Frederick Fox's winner for *Noon*. Third place went to the late Christian Berard for *School for Wives* decor. George Wakeovitch's *Ring Round the Moon* set got fourth approval and Oliver Messel's designs for *Romeo and Juliet* rated fifth in the voting.

In the costume sector, there was a sharp drop in tallies after winning tie by Oliver Messel and Castillo. Ruth Morley's clothes designs for *Billy Budd* took second place, while the late Berard's designs for *School for Wives* were a few votes behind for third. Co-winner Oliver Messel was fourth choice for outfits for *Lady's Not for Burning*, with Robert O'Hearn right on his heels for costumes for *The Relapse*.

While, as noted elsewhere, *Guys and Dolls* carried off better than half of the total vote as the best musical of the year, there were plenty of dissenters to put *The King and I* solidly in second place. Others liked *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* well enough to root it into third position. Farther down the line were *Call Me Madam* for fourth, closely followed by *Make a Wish* in fifth position.

On the score of musical staging achievement, John Van Druten polled a hefty return for second place for direction of *King and I*. George Abbott's direction of *Tree Grows in Brooklyn* rated him in third, and he followed himself for fourth place for his staging of *Call Me Madam*. Direction of *Make a Wish* put John C. Wilson in fifth place.

As reported elsewhere, Yul Brynner's smash vote as the season's best musical actor put all competition in the shade. Sam Levene (*Guys and Dolls*) was the next popular choice. Robert Alda of the same show was not far behind

him. Johnny Johnston of *Tree Grows in Brooklyn* took fourth place and Melville Cooper (*Make a Wish*) wound up fifth.

Vivian Blaine (*Guys and Dolls*), who of course won in the fem musical debut category, was a substantial second choice for best actress in a song-and-dancer. Ethel Merman (*Call Me Madam*) polled a third place vote, and Gertrude Lawrence (*King and I*) topped Nannette Fabray (*Make a Wish*) for fourth slot.

Runner-up to winner Russell Nype (*Call Me Madam*) for best musical supporting performance by an actor was Stubby Kaye of *Guys and Dolls*. Next in order were:

1. Nathaniel Frey... *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
2. Sam Levene... *Guys and Dolls*
3. Yul Brynner... *King and I*
4. Isabel Bigley (*Guys and Dolls*) lost a neck-and-neck finish to take second place for the fem best supporting performance. Others in the running were:

1. Dorothy Sarnoff... *King and I*
2. Marcia Van Dyke... *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
3. Helen Gallagher (*Make a Wish*) and Vivian Blaine (*Guys and Dolls*) tied for fifth place.

Stubby Kaye (*Guys and Dolls*) again took a second place, this time in the best musical debut sector. Johnny Johnston (*Tree Grows in Brooklyn*), polled third. Stephen Douglass (*Make a Wish*) was fourth and B. S. Pully (*Guys and Dolls*) was fifth.

In the fem musical debut poll, Isabel Bigley (*Guys and Dolls*) also scored another second place slot. Marcia Van Dyke (*Tree Grows in Brooklyn*) was third choice. Zelma George in a revival of *The Medium* was fourth and Dorothy Greener took fifth place for work in the revue *Razzle Dazzle*.

Ties studded the runners-up field in the male terping department. Harold Lang (*Make a Wish*) of course was a sock winner. Peter Gennaro (*Guys and Dolls*) with about one-sixth of Lang's tally took second place. Thereafter, Eddie Phillips (*Guys and Dolls*) tied with Lou Willis Jr. (*Tree Grows in Brooklyn*) for third. Jamen Jamieson (*Brigadoon*) and Ray Harrison (*Out of This World*) tied for fourth, and Tommy Rall (*Call Me Madam*) called it even with Arthur Partington, of the same show, for fifth.

Runners-up on the distaff terping side were:

1. Yuriko... *King and I*
2. Helen Gallagher... *Make a Wish*
3. Valerie Bettis... *Bless You All*
4. Michiko... *King and I*
5. Oscar Hammerstein II, five-time previous winner of Donaldson Awards for the best musical book, took second place this year for the *King and I* libretto. Betty Smith and George Abbott rated third for *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse were fourth with *Call Me Madam*, and Dwight Taylor and Reginald Lawrence polled fifth for *Out of This World*.

Richard Rodgers, scorewise a three-time previous Awards winner, had to be content with second place this year for his music for the *King and I*. Other top tunesmiths were:

1. Arthur Schwartz... *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
2. Irving Berlin... *Call Me Madam*
3. Hugh Martin... *Make a Wish*
4. As with his book, Hammerstein's lyrics for *King and I* made him a second place choice. Other rhymsters included:

1. Dorothy Fields... *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
  2. Irving Berlin... *Call Me Madam*
  3. Cole Porter... *Out of This World*
- There was sharp competition in the dance pattern field. Gower Champion, winner two years ago for choreography for *Lend an Ear*, was rated not too far behind this year's winner, Jerome Robbins, for second place. Champion devised the dances for *Make a Wish*. Close behind him in third slot was Michael Kidd for a similar chore for *Guys and Dolls*. Hanya Holm took fourth place for *Out of This World*, and Robbins scored again in fifth place for *Call Me Madam* dances.

Joe Mielziner's tally for his setting for *King and I* not only trebled his nearest competitor, but he likewise snared third and fifth

# 'Noon,' 'Budd,' 'Dolls' Given Donaldsons

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the Rodgers-Hammerstein musical make her an all-out winner.

As in Brynner's case there was no doubt from the earliest balloting as to legit's choice for the best musical performance of the season by an actress. Shirley Booth's fabulous Aunt Cissy of *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* was top choice from the beginning. As she did last year for her pathetic contribution in *Come Back Little Sheba*, so she scores this time in the musical field. Miss Booth gets song-and-dancer top acting award.

Best supporting performance honors for an actor go to Russel Nype, he of the horned-rimmed glasses and the crew-cue, of *Call Me Madam*. Dancewise, Harold Lang took a key and scroll for top stepping back in 1947 for *Look, Ma, I'm Dancin'*. Again he is the year's outstanding stepper for contributions to *Make a Wish*. On the fem side the voters liked best the dancing of Janet Collins in *Out of This World*.

# Conn. Gov. OK's Bard Project; \$1 Mil Needed

HARTFORD, Conn., July 21.—Gov. John D. Lodge has signed a bill authorizing incorporation of an American Shakespeare Theater and Academy of Connecticut, and empowering it to construct a suitable playhouse.

This is the nonprofit project sponsored by the big three of the Theater Guild—Lawrence and Mrs. (Armina Marshall) Langner, and Theresa Helburn. The incorporators' plans call for the construction of a million-dollar plant, dedicated to the stimulation of public interest in Shakespearean productions, altho repertoire will not be strictly limited to the Bard. No site has been definitely selected, but it is reported that the sponsors would like a waterfront spot.

According to Mrs. Langner, the project should get into operation next summer for an annual production season of four to five months.

Meanwhile, all that remains is a little matter of raising about \$1,000,000 via subscription and subsidy.

slots for designs for other productions. Ratings in order were:

1. Lemuel Ayers... *Out of This World*
  2. Jo Mielziner... *Guys and Dolls*
  3. Raoul Pene du Bois... *Make a Wish*
  4. Jo Mielziner... *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
- In the costume design category, Irene Sharoff's all-out victory was followed by a second place tie between Lemuel Ayers (*World*) and Alvin Colt (*Guys and Dolls*). Raoul Pene du Bois was third for *Wish*. Irene Sharoff repeated for fourth place with *Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Du Bois repeated for fifth choice with *Call Me Madam*.

It took 106 individual producers to put on the 87 new shows, and they employed the talents of 87 authors, Shakespeare and Ibsen being among those most represented, with three each. For plays of foreign origin, five writers provided adaptations. In the musical division, 29 composers and 24 lyricists contributed to the season. And 15 dance directors laid out the choreographies. A total of 72 directors were employed to stage the new productions.

Backgrounds for the season's shows stemmed from 46 scenic designers, of which Ralph Alswang, Jo Mielziner and Donald Oenslager were the busiest, with five shows each. Forty-two costume designers were responsible for the season's attire; Aline Bernstein, Anna Hill Johnstone, Ruth Morley and Emeline Roche providing it-for four shows each.

Fifty-six press agents beat the drum for the season's openings. Mike O'Shea had nine to worry about, more than any of the others. Dick Maney and Dick Williams had eight each.

# LEADERS SERVE ON 8TH DONALDSON COMMITTEE

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# Sides and Asides

Peter Lawrence said last week that he had applied to the Hospital for Sick Children in London for rights to put "Peter Pan" on the road again. The title role this time would probably be taken by film actress Veronica Lake, who is currently touring the summer circuit in "The Voice of the Turtle" and "The Curtain Rises." Robert Lewis who was to stage and produce Edward Caulefield's "The Idea" in association with the Playwrights' Company, announced last week that the project has been indefinitely postponed for the purpose of making script revisions. Taking first place in the Playwrights' attention, therefore, is Maxwell Anderson's "Barefoot in Athens," for which a leading man is still sought. Louis Verneuil's new comedy, which is skedded to open at the Plymouth, New York, September 25, with Ginger Rogers starring, last week received the title, "Love and Let Love." Show

is currently in rehearsal on the West Coast under Verneuil's direction. "The Philemon Complex," L. Bush-Feteke's comedy to be presented by Richard Krakeur in the fall, will have Robert Cummings in the male lead. Ann Sothorn will play opposite. The producing partnership of Herman Levin and Oliver Smith last week moved its headquarters to 444 Madison Avenue. More spacious accommodations, supposedly. Plans were finalized last week by Charles Harrow to present all-Negro legit attractions at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. Beginning August 1, Sidney Kingsley's "Detective Story" will be shown, with Sidney Poitier playing McLeod, which will be followed by "Rain," with Nina Mae McKinney in the lead. It may be worked out so that, after showing at the Apollo, plays will be taken to the Loew's Bedford in Brooklyn, and from there to a theater in Washington. Hal

# BB Bows to Committee

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secret, with return postage guaranteed.

The plan took root at once, and in general there has been little deviation from its original set-up over the past eight years. The make-up of the committee changes somewhat from year to year, but always comprises the most prominent representatives of the crafts.

In the 1945-'46 season the current committee added five more categories to the ballot for a total of 27. This was done to stimulate interest in new writing and performing talent and included authors with a play reaching Broadway for the first time, and male and fem debut performances in both drama and musical divisions. Various minor adjustments for more efficient operation have been made from time to time, but the essential aim and purpose of the project has been strictly adhered to.

Annually some 6,000 ballots are distributed to the voters, directly to the theaters in which they happen to be working and via their

various trade unions if they are not employed. Nearly half this number are returned for tabulation, a tally which gives a pretty fair cross-section of theatrical opinion and one which naturally carries along with the key and scroll a broader personal meaning to the recipients than honors conferred by any group of self-appointed. Such is the means and end of the Annual Donaldson Awards.

The Billboard takes this opportunity for an eighth time to thank a Donaldson Awards committee for its splendid support, and also the various theatrical trades for their assistance in reaching the voters. As usual, particular thanks are due to the stage managers of the Broadway productions and to John Effrat, who again represented them on the committee, for their exceptionally prompt efforts in collecting and filing the ballots of their respective casts.

# Detroit Grips Elect Hamilton

DETROIT, July 21.—Lester B. Hamilton, of the United Artists Theater, was re-elected president of stagehands' Local 38, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. Other officers are: Vice-President, Clarence Apgar, Hollywood Theater, and Dennis William Allen, WWJ-TV; secretary-treasurer, Sidney L. Day Sr., United Artists Theater; corresponding secretary, Douglas Wandrei, of Royal, Norwest and Varsity houses; business representative, E. Clyde Adler, Michigan Theater, and sergeant at arms, Edgar McMillen.

Allen's election marks the first time either a radio or television man has held office in this old craft local.

# Dramatic Routes

Guys and Dolls (Carran) San Francisco. Mr. Roberts (Biltmore) Los Angeles. Moon Is Blue (Harris) Chicago. South Pacific (Shubert) Chicago. Three Wishes for Jamie (Philharmonic) Los Angeles.

# Highlight Reviews

The week's Highlight Reviews appear on Page 3, this issue.