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## EDITORS' NOTE

# Buff of theater, magic, music and O'Neill

Tom (not Thomas) Prideaux has been Life's theater editor and critic since the margarine, since the magazine's early days, but his fascination for the plays of Eugene O'Neill days. Eugene O'Neill dates back before that. "When I was very young about 13." save To about 13," says Tom, "I began going to practically every O'Neill play. I saw Anna Charles back before that. "When I was very young play. I saw Anna Charles began going to practically every O'Neill privately play. I saw Anna Christie, his first big hit, in 1921 and privately cheered him as he want cheered him as he went on to knock them dead with things like The Hairy Ape, Strange Level to knock them dead with things like The Hairy Ape, Strange Interlude, Mourning Becomes Electra. In those days he was a shocker and America, in America, days he was a shocker, a revolutionary. To people my age in America, almost everybody else lead to the shocker and the shocker are shocker. almost everybody else looked pale beside him." Tom did not meet O'Neill until 1946, when we have beside him." Tom did not meet to the play. O'Neill until 1946, when a mutual friend introduced him to the play wright. "He was extraord a mutual friend introduced him to the play." wright. "He was extremely disarming and

simple," says Tom. "No pretentions, no side or arrogance at all. When it was time to go he turned to me and said, 'You come back alone sometime and we'll pull the tailfeathers out of the world.", Tom did, and they did, and Tom brought back a real prize—permission to print in a 1946 LIFE article a short excerpt from Long Day's Journey into Night. It was, O'Neill told Tom, the best play he had ever written. He said he kept it locked in a safe and would not publish it for 25 years (it

Also in the 40s, when Ingrid Bergman was playing in his Anna Christie, O'Neill talked to the actress about a cycle of plays



he was writing and asked her to appear in some of them. Tom Prideaux in this issue tells how Bergman has ended her long exile from More States to do just that, also ended her long exile from part in the United States to do just that; she is playing a principal part in More Stately Mansions, which has just opened in Los Angeles.

There is a vast difference between the conditions and the translations. There is a vast difference between Prideaux and the traditional om reached running to find a taxi-

big-city critic whose main transportation problem is to find a taxi-had been routed to Angeles via the roll. Tom reached Los Angeles via the polar route from London, where he performances. Where plays for the had been reviewing three plays for the had been reviewed to have covered the had been reviewed to have covered to have cov had been reviewing three plays for next week's issue. He has covered year his in the aters from M performances in theaters from Moscow to Tokyo, and in the past Michigan, and Michigan, and Michigan, and maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo, and in the past maken him to Son Is to Tokyo Is to Tokyo Is to Tokyo Is year his job has taken him to San Francisco, Florida, Michigan, (six times) and Angeles, London D. Angeles, London D. San Francisco, Florida, Michigan, Canada New Orleans, Los Angeles, London, Paris—not to mention Canada theater pour la side trip to Egypt (1) (six times) and a side trip to Egypt (he is an Egyptologist).

(six times) and a side trip to Egypt (he is an Egyptologist). theater nowadays," says Tom, "is more varied, and different than their country Total Cover it you," and to cover it you, and the cover it you, and the cover it you. ever before, and to cover it you've got to get around. Especially in surge of activities the good university of the second to get around. this country. Take the good university theaters—there's a sudden sics—they're are new scripts. surge of activity there—new scripts, avant-garde plays and the class a sudden to join forces with the class and performers. And take the repertory companies with the professional performers. And take the repertory companies—there are at least a dozen good around the ones spread all over the companies—there are at least a dozen gover the things."

Least the repertory companies—there are at least a dozen gover the map. Broadway is expanding all around the area at least a dozen gover the theorem.

country and it behooves a theater reporter to get out and see all these Tom's interests are not limited to pure theater. He is a devotee of and admirated to pure theater. musical comedy, and a friend to pure theater. He is a devotee writers who sometimes triend and admirer of a lot of top pop-song magic shows writers who sometimes triend and admirer of a lot of top pop-some circus in Montreal r is a circus huff II enchant him, and he is a circus buff. He covered the Moscow State week. Circus in Montreal for us a circus buff. He covered the Moscow Stathan the last time he saw it—in Liège Dalai Circus in Montreal for us a few weeks ago and report in Liège, Belgium.

Teorge F. Hun George P. I Managing Editor

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Ingrid Bergman Ends Her Exile

THE MIDDLE EAST PART II

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JOLI THE ARABS

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