1915

Drama on a Women’s Campus

The Ardeleons

Part 2

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
And truly joint productions begin.
Antigone was done in 1952 – but the photos are from the 1957 yearbook - just a few years later, but all the students had changed.
Another joint production in 1952

Ardeleons, Players Produce Comedy

Eight members of the Ardeleons are cooperating with the Johnny Players in the production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" by Moss Hart and George Kaufman. Scheduled for October 25 and 26, the comedy's title role is assigned to Michael Thomas. Seventeen other Johnny players complete the male cast. Joan Kilter of Missoula, Montana; Jacqueline Ulmen of Mankato; Betty Zimmerman of Rochester; Delores Daggett of Winchon; Delores Kohler of Tacoma, Washington; Jeanne Griflowski and Marlene Delarios of St. Cloud; and Nancy Hynes of Winchon are the Ardeleons who are appearing in the comedy about the egotistic Sheridan Whiteside, nationally famous radio star.
Back to all-female casts, including the actress later known as Sister Nancy Hynes.

1953

St. Ben’s Monastery Archives photo – PG Dramatics folder
In addition to plays, concerts and convocations given at St. Benedict’s, the energies and talents of Bennies are extended to Johnny-Benny productions and exchange programs. This year’s record shows Ardeleons collaborating with the Johnny Players in such productions as “The Lady’s Not For Burning,” “The Tempest” and “Macbeth,” and in return the Johnnies assuming male leads in campus plays at St. Benedict’s.

Another joint production

1954

Ardeleons, a club of aspiring actresses, meets twice a month to read and discuss plays under the direction of moderator, Sister Colman. Believers of the adage that "doing is learning," the Ardeleons also hold practical demonstrations of acting techniques and make use of first-hand experience with stage equipment.

The drama club on campus, Ardeleons, is divided into two sections: a Senior group for upperclassmen and a Junior group for Freshmen. This year they staged two productions at the college: Arthur Miller's The Crucible in December and Moliere's The Miser in March. They also played in the St. John's University plays The Curious Savage and Othello. All the shows here were produced in collaboration with the Johnny Players of St. John's.
Antigone – again.

1957 Facula, p. 75
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/8550/rec/71
"Lute Song" - December 7-8, 1958

“The meeting of the Junior & Senior Ardeleons was held on Thursday, December 11, 1958 at 6:30 o'clock...”

“The heads of all the committees were asked to give a report on their committee.”
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2. Costumes - poor; very little cooperation.
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5. Makeup - very good, pleased with the committee.
6. Prop - too small a crew, slow start but girls from other committees helped - worked well during the play.
7. Light - late start - not enough time to practice so older girls had to do the work.
8. Stage - everyone worked - had difficulty in putting things back.
9. House committee - good - but girls dropped off and two girls ended up doing it all. The cleaning up went fine.

1958

1958 - from CSB Archives, Theater Dept 1930s-1970s AC 07.41 Box 01
Ardeleon Minutes and Notebook, 1950 to 1955
“It was pointed out that all should stay and help on the play at least the last two weekends before the production and certainly the weekend of it. From now on they are closed to Ardeleons except for special permission. We don’t realize that each and every person is important. The Freshmen must learn to realize their responsibilities.”

1958 - from CSB Archives, Theater Dept 1930s-1970s AC 07.41 Box 01
Ardeleon Minutes and Notebook, 1950 to 1955
Photos in 1959 Facula, p. 9 & 10
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/8578/rec/21
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“Sr. Colman then gave a pep talk. She was not displeased with the play and believed the actors gave their best. And she felt a sense of gratitude from all the girls...”
“But - she was embarrassed & humiliated at (1) our lack of responsibility, like going home when it was our duty to be here, and letting Sr. Clarus do most of the costumes (2) the money had been left in Sr. Mary Patrick's office (3) the refreshments were slow (4) the coming late for rehearsals (5) some props were treated badly (6) and the failure to put the things away and Sr. had to do most of the cleaning up herself.”
“S. Colman was disappointed with the freshmen. She thought we had acted like babies. Now it'll be up to us to show her that we aren't and that we can accept responsibility.”
The first meeting of the Junior Ardelions was held on Tuesday, October 13, 1959, in Room 107. Sister Colman opened the meeting with a prayer and then began to discuss the purpose of the Ardelions. The purpose is to give good plays for the audience, to delight them, and to entertain them. Also, it gives its members some training in the theatre, in helping to understand the delight of creating and very important in the training in responsibility. It is the students' responsibility to see that the club works. The duties of the members are to co-operate in every production unless excused, to be dependable, and to work hard.

“The purpose of the Ardelions [sic]...is to give good plays for the audience, to delight them, and to entertain them...”

S. Colman continues to drive home the same points with subsequent generations of students.
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“The meeting of the Junior Ardelions was held on October 29, 1959, tenth hour in Room 107. Sister Colman opened the meeting with a prayer and then began to discuss the purpose of the Ardelions. The purpose is to give good plays for the audience, to delight them, and to entertain them. Also, it gives its members some training in the theatre, in helping to understand the delight of creating and very important in the training in responsibility. It is the students’ responsibility to see that the club works are to be completed in a proper manner, to be depended upon.

Sister Colman told me the reason for the name of this club; that St. Ardelion was an actor of the fourth century.
Theatrical Anecdotes: Or Fun and Curiosities of the Play, the Playhouse, and ...

by Jacob Larwood, 1882, p. 230

Ardleons
Theater Arts

“...All the world’s a stage” and Betsy Ardleons are busy proving this to audiences throughout the year. Ardleons is an organization for the students on the CSB campus who are interested in any phase of theatre production. During the course of the year various meetings are used to instruct members in the many arts that go on behind the scenes of a play. Stagecraft, makeup, costumes, property work and direction give everyone a chance to show his talents other than on the stage.

Productions range from Greek to Shakespeare to modern. Each year a children’s play is also given.

“Now that was a little better, but two or three things need improvement.” Sister Cabreres reminds her cast that there are few miracles left before the opening performance of “Arms and The Man.”

1958 Facula p. 65-66
“Now that was a little better, but two or three things need improvement,” Sister Colman reminds her cast that there are few rehearsals left before the opening performance of “Arms and The Man”.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/digital/collection/CSBArchives/id/3549/rec/20
1958 Facula p. 65
Freshman Florence Wagener joins the Johnny Players to read the title role in a production of Ronald Knox’s translation of *The Book of Judith*. It is an arrangement for use in choric reading to which was added costumes and scenery. The arrangement was made and directed by Fr. Dominic, OSB.
Members of the Ardelesas sign out before going to St. John's to join the Johnnies in presenting *The Admirable Crichton.*
This is the fourth annual production of a children’s play
in the St. Cloud area given by the Iradeens.
ABDULLAH TO GIVE MELODRAMA THEATER OPPORTUNITY

The magic world of make-believe will come to life for the children of the St. Cloud area when Grimm's beloved fairy tale, "Hansel and Gretel", is presented by the ABDULLAH of the College of St. Benedict, April 29-30.

Performances will be given at Benedictine High School gymnasium Saturday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. There will be two presentations at Mary Hall on the campus of the College of St. Benedict on Sunday. Curtain time will be 2 and 8 p.m.

1961 - CSB Archives, AC 12.01 F02 Box 01, PIO News Releases
Some philosophical words from Colman that are still relevant in these days of video-on-demand!
Venues for the Ardeleons included the St. Joe grade school, St. Cloud Tech
high School, Cathedral High – and St. Ben’s own stage in Teresa Hall, 2nd flo
2018 10 26 photo by P. Roske
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