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1956

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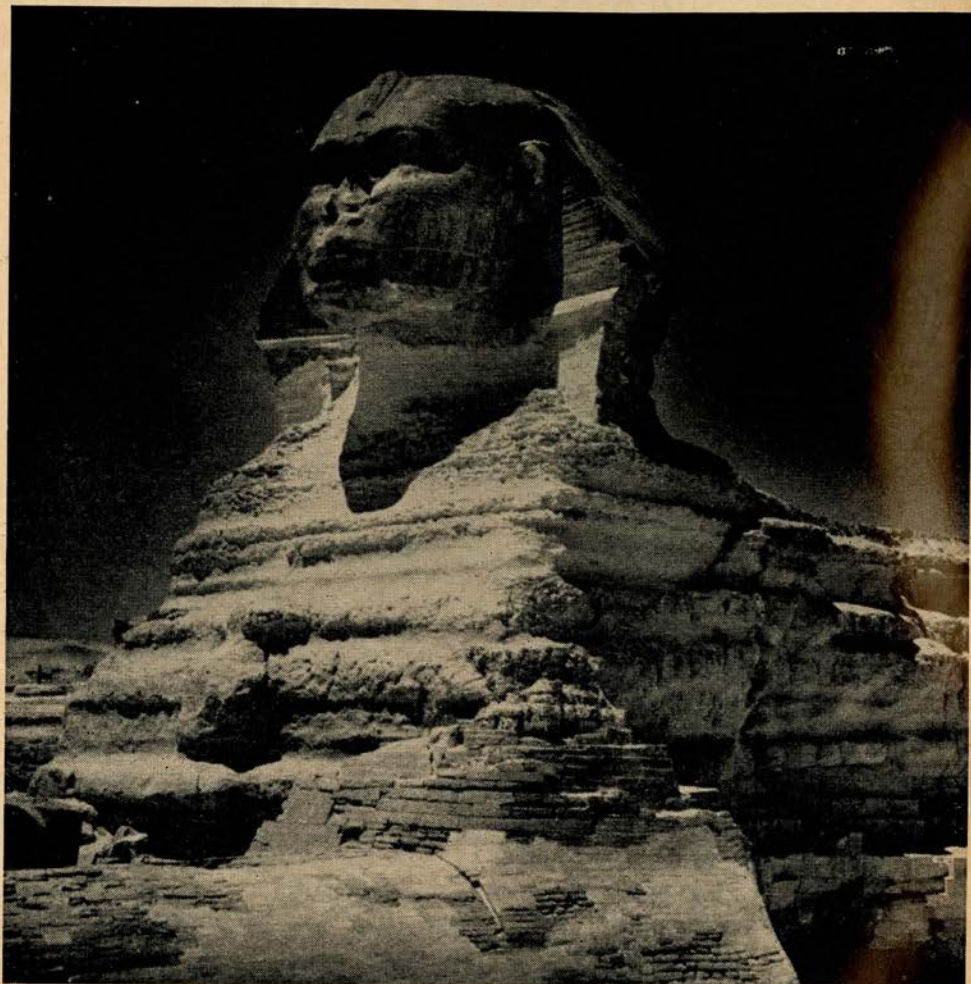
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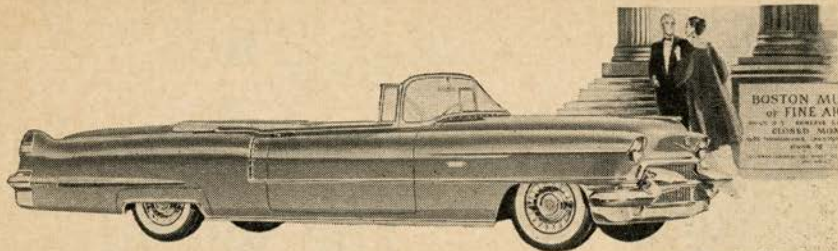
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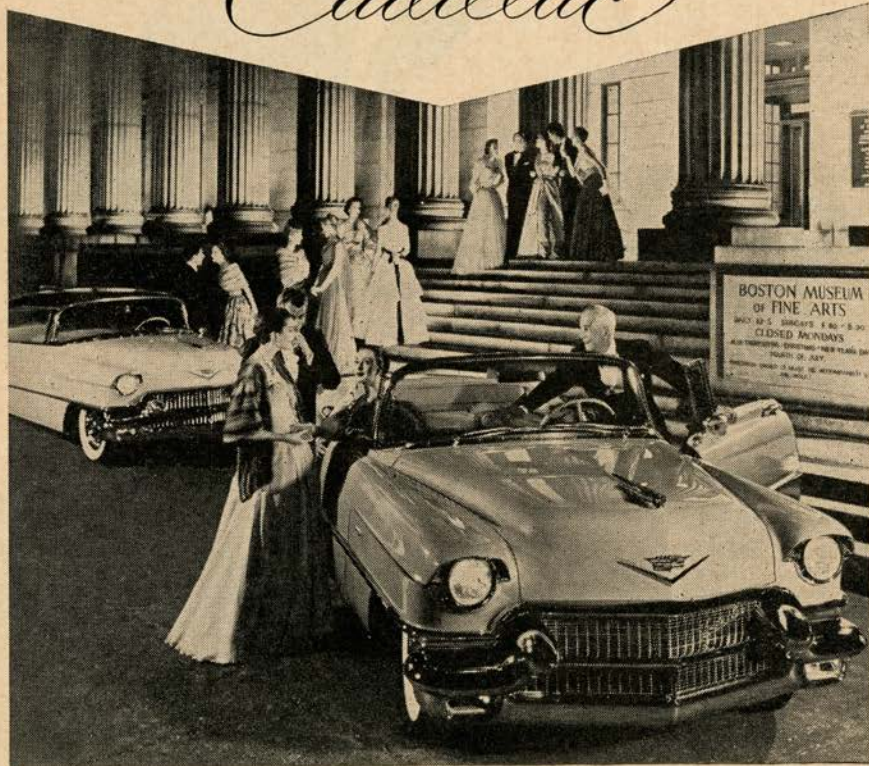


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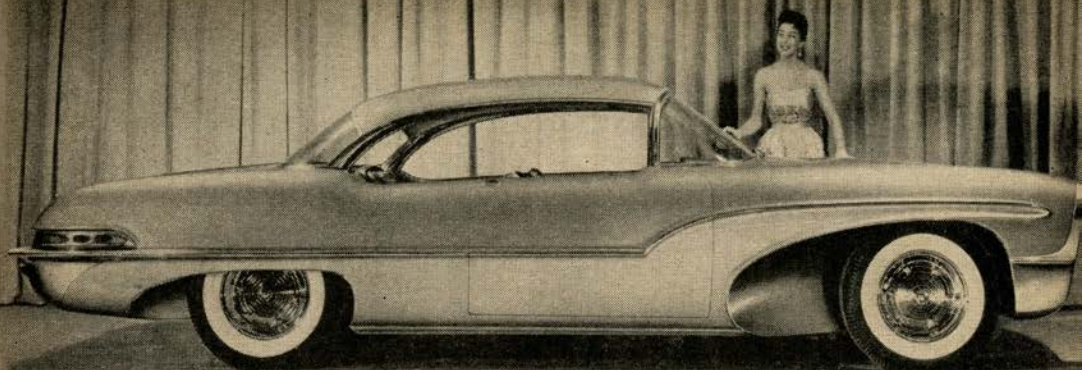
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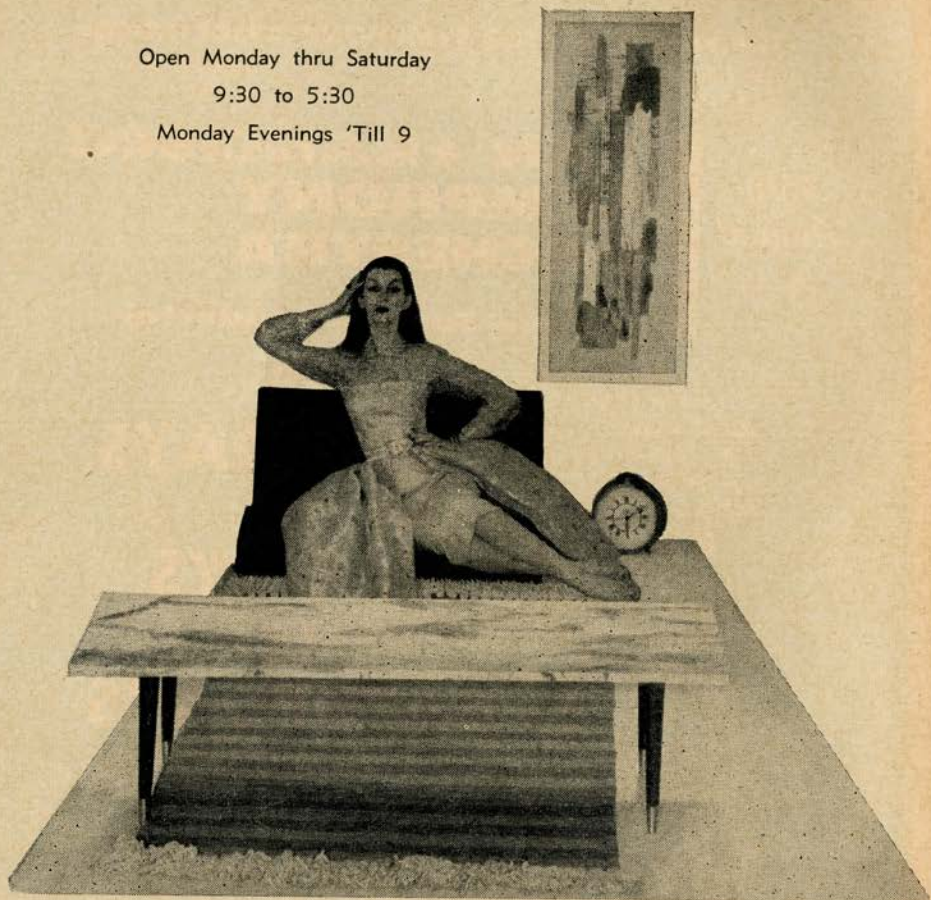
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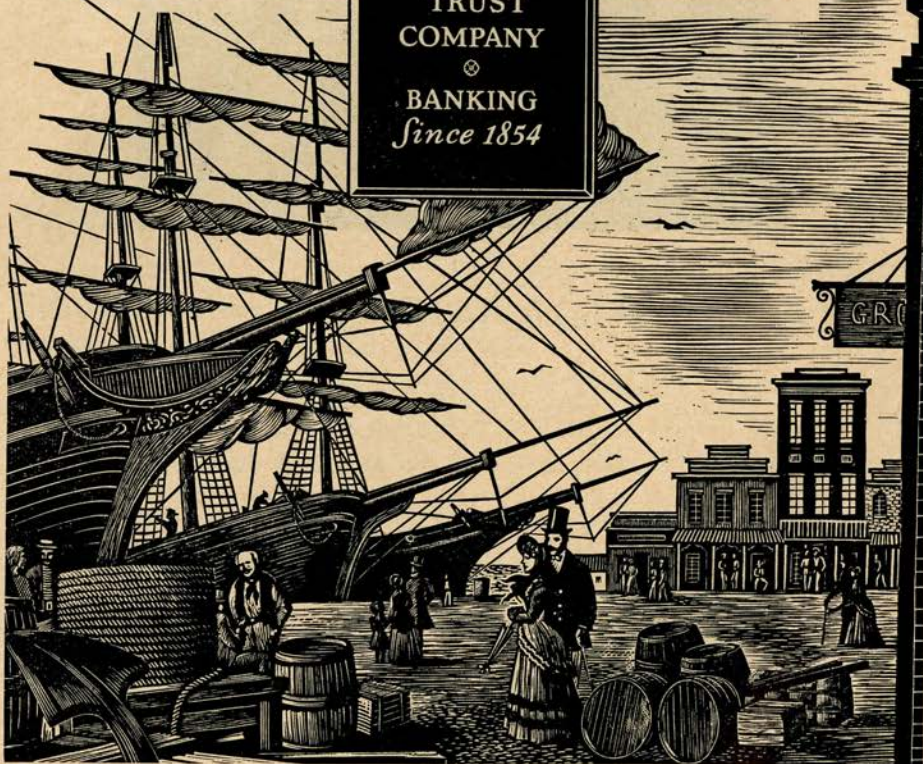
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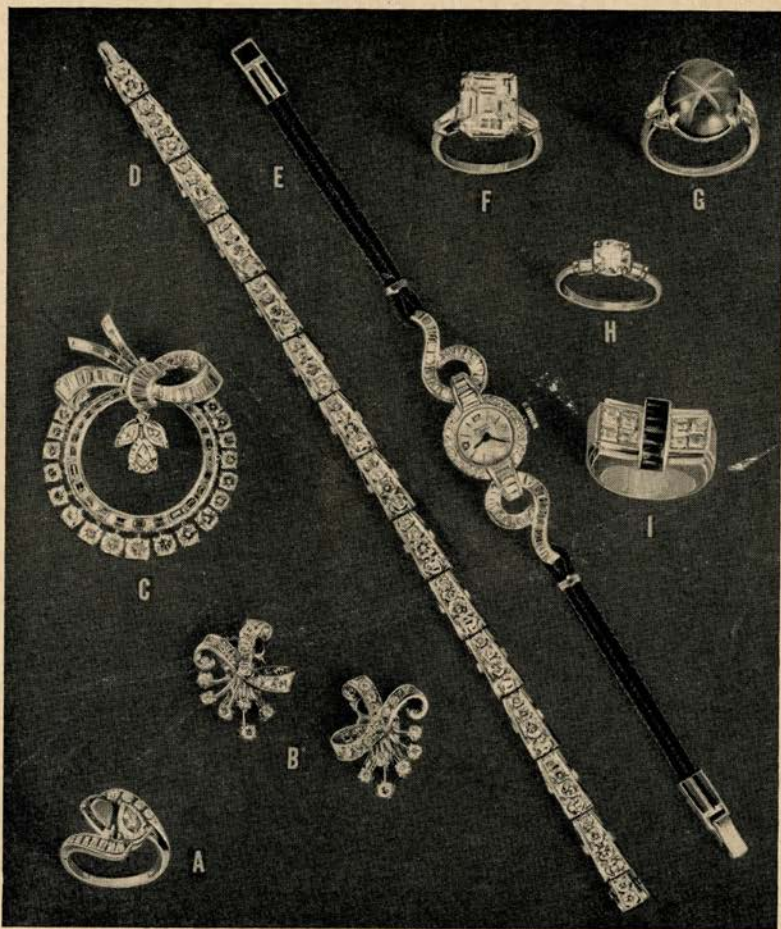
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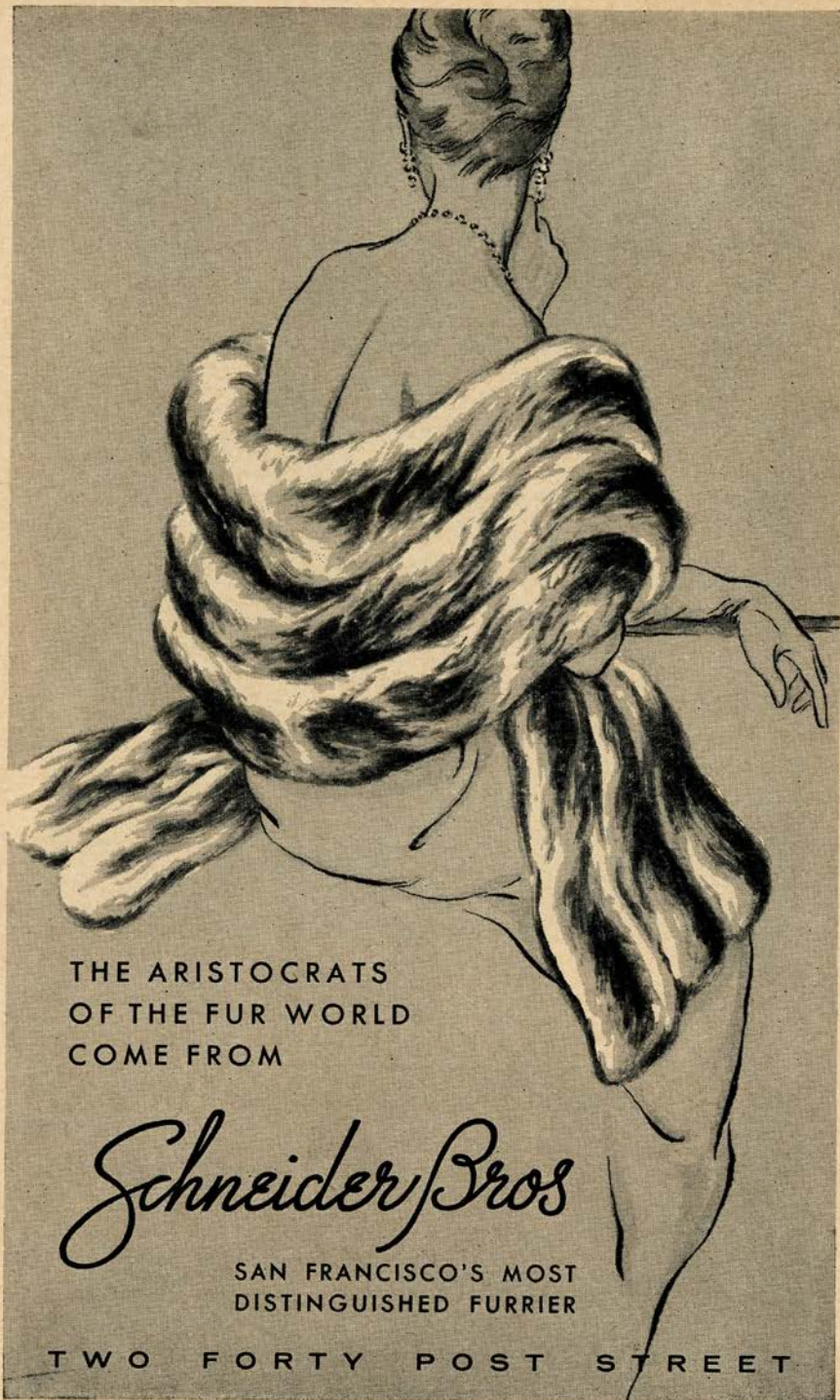
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THURSDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 27, at 8:00

(FINAL CURTAIN APPROXIMATELY 11:00)

REVIVAL

# Falstaff

(In Italian)

Opera in Three Acts by Giuseppe Verdi

Text by Arrigo Boito after "The Merry Wives of Windsor" by Shakespeare

**Conductor:** WILLIAM STEINBERG      **Stage Director:** PAUL HAGER

Sir John Falstaff.....	LEONARD WARREN
Mrs. Alice Ford.....	ELIZABETH SCHWARZKOPF
Ford, a wealthy burgher.....	FRANK GUARRERA
Nanetta, their daughter.....	AUDREY SCHUH
Fenton, a young nobleman.....	GIUSEPPE CAMPORA
Mrs. Meg Page.....	MARGARET ROGGERO
Dame Quickly.....	ORALIA DOMINGUEZ
Dr. Caius, a physician.....	VIRGINIO ASSANDRI
Bardolfo }.....	Followers of Falstaff { ALESSIO DE PAOLIS
Pistola }.....	
Two Pages.....	SUKI SCHORER, MATILDA ABBE
An Innkeeper.....	PAUL GUENTER

Corps de Ballet

**CHORUS DIRECTOR:**  
GIANNI LAZZARI

**CHOREOGRAPHER:**  
WILLAM CHRISTENSEN

**TIME AND PLACE:** Fifteenth Century; Windsor

Act I: Scene 1: Room at the Garter Inn  
Scene 2: Courtyard at Ford's home

Act II: Scene 1: Same as Act I, Scene 1  
Scene 2: Room in Ford's home

Act III: Scene 1: Same as Act I, Scene 1  
Scene 2: Windsor Forest at Night

*Costumes by Goldstein & Co.*

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## Falstaff

ACT I—(1) At an inn after a drinking bout in which he manages to fleece Dr. Caius, Falstaff tells his followers, Bardolfo and Pistola of two new conquests he hopes to make—Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Page. He asks his companions to deliver identical love notes to the ladies, and when they refuse he chases them out and sends the messages by a page. (2) Comparing notes, the matrons with Nanetta and Dame Quickly plan revenge on Falstaff. Entering with Ford, Dr. Caius and Fenton, Bardolfo and Pistola disclose Falstaff's amorous project, and the men too plan revenge in which the disguised Ford will lure Falstaff into a trap. They leave while Fenton and Nanetta enjoy a brief love scene, soon interrupted by the returning women.

ACT II—(1) Dame Quickly delivers a note to Falstaff from Alice Ford making an appointment for that afternoon. She leaves as the disguised Ford arrives. Calling himself Brook he asks Falstaff's aid in what he pretends is a hopeless romance with Mrs. Ford. Falstaff agrees to help revealing his afternoon rendezvous with her. This astonishes Ford who now fears she is deceiving him. (2) Warned by Quickly of Falstaff's imminent arrival the women retire leaving Alice to greet him. He immediately begins to make violent love to her, but is interrupted by Dame Quickly who announces that Ford has returned and is searching for his wife's lover. Falstaff is successfully hidden first behind a screen and then in a basket of dirty linen. Ford, certain he has surprised Falstaff behind the screen is dismayed to find only Nanetta and Fenton. Disgusted at his error he continues his search as Mrs. Ford orders the basket containing Falstaff to be dumped into the river.

ACT III—(1) Falstaff accepting a new engagement to meet Mrs. Ford at Windsor Park the next evening is unknowingly involved in another plot—one of which Ford is also aware. Dame Quickly returning with his acceptance overhears Ford promising Nanetta's hand to Dr. Caius. She tells Mrs. Ford who immediately warns the young lovers. (2) Arriving in the wood, Fenton and Nanetta re-avow their love. Now the others arrive disguised as elves and nymphs and secrete themselves awaiting Falstaff. He enters and has a moment alone with Alice before they descend on him and trounce him. All is done in a jestful manner, and Ford now satisfied with this revenge finally agrees to let Nanetta marry Fenton.

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FRIDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 28, at 8:15

(FINAL CURTAIN APPROXIMATELY 11:30)

WEST COAST PREMIERE

NEW PRODUCTION

# Francesca da Rimini

(In Italian)

Opera in Four Acts by Riccardo Zandonai

Text by Tito Ricordi from a play by Gabriele d'Annunzio

**Conductor:**

OLIVIERO DE FABRITIIS

**Stage Director**

CARLO MAESTRINI

Stage Setting and Lighting by LEO KERZ

Francesca.....	**LEYLA GENCER
Paolo, the handsome.....	RICHARD MARTELL
Giovanni, the lame.....	ANSELMO COLZANI
Malatestino, the one-eyed.....	CESARE CURZI
Samaritana .....	JEANNINE CRADER
Biancofiore .....	*MARY GRAY
Garsenda .....	JAN McART
Altichiara .....	MARGARET ROGGERO
Donella .....	ROSALIND NADELL
Ostasio .....	CARL PALANGI
Ser Toldo Berardengo.....	ALESSIO DE PAOLIS
The Jester.....	HEINZ BLANKENBURG
A Bowman.....	CHRIS LACHONA
Tower Warden.....	MURRAY KENIG
Smaragdi, a slave.....	KATHERINE HILGENBERG
Voice of a Prisoner.....	VIRGINIO ASSANDRI

\* San Francisco Opera debut  
\*\* American Opera debut

**CHORUS DIRECTOR:** GIANNI LAZZARI

**TIME AND PLACE:** Italy during the thirteenth century

Act I: In the Courtyard of the Polentani Palace

Act II: The Ramparts of the Malatesti Palace

Act III: Francesca's Apartments in the Malatesti Palace

Act IV: Scene 1: A Chamber in the Malatesti Palace

Scene 2: Francesca's Boudoir in the Malatesti Palace

*Costumes by Goldstein & Co.*

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"Cosi Fan Tutte" (Mozart)

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## Francesca da Rimini

ACT I—For reasons of State, Francesca of Polenta and Giovanni of Malatesta are betrothed. However, the families fearing that she would refuse to marry the lame and deformed Giovanni, lead her to believe that her fiance is the handsome Paolo. Under this impression she falls madly in love with him at first sight, although the two do not speak.

ACT II—During a battle between the Guelfs and Ghibellines, Francesca and Paolo meet and Francesca, now Giovanni's wife reproaches him for his part in the ruse. Protesting his innocence, he reveals his love for her as Giovanni enters with the news that Paolo has been elected Captain of the People in the Commune of Florence.

ACT III—In her apartments, Francesca and her women are celebrating the advent of Spring when they are interrupted by the news that Paolo has arrived. Dismissing her women, Francesca greets Paolo, and the two no longer able to control their feelings vow their love.

ACT IV—Malatestino, the youngest brother, also in love with Francesca, discovers her secret meetings with Paolo and informs Giovanni. Enraged, Giovanni hides outside Francesca's door, and when he finds the two lovers together at early dawn, he slays them both.

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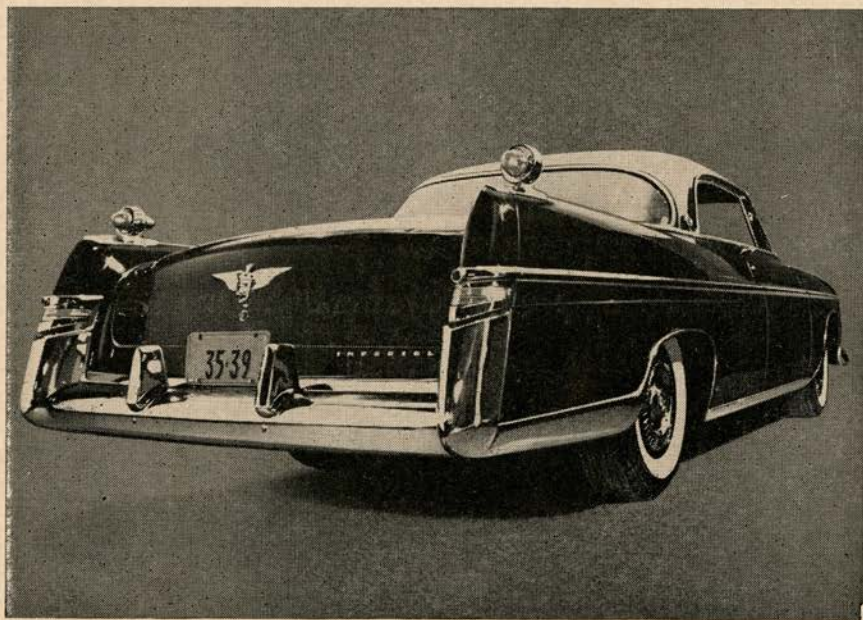
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SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 29, at 8:00

(FINAL CURTAIN APPROXIMATELY 11:30)

NEWLY DEvised PRODUCTION

# Boris Godounoff

(In Russian)

Music Drama in Three Acts with Nine Scenes

Music and Text by Modeste Moussorgsky (Rimsky-Korsakoff Version)

**Conductor:** WILLIAM STEINBERG      **Stage Director:** PAUL HAGER

Designed by LEO KERZ

Boris Godounoff, Regent of Russia.....	BORIS CHRISTOFF
Feodor, his son.....	ROSALIND NADELL
Xenia, his daughter.....	JEANNINE CRADER
The Nurse.....	JUNE WILKINS
Schouisky.....	CESARE CURZI
Tchelkaloff.....	GEORGE CEHANOVSKY
Brother Pimenn.....	NICOLA MOSCONA
Dimitri, Grigori.....	RICHARD LEWIS
Marina.....	ORALIA DOMINGUEZ
Rangoni.....	HANS HOTTER
Varlaam.....	LORENZO ALVARY
Missail.....	CHRIS LACHONA
The Innkeeper.....	KATHERINE HILGENBERG
The Simpleton.....	RAYMOND MANTON
A Police Officer.....	CARL PALANGI
A Frontier Guard.....	DESIRE LIGETI
Tcherniakowsky.....	LOUIS QUILICO
Lovitzky.....	MURRAY KENIG
Kronchkoff, a Boyar.....	VIRGINIO ASSANDRI
Three Peasants.....	PEGGY COVINGTON, ELOISE FARRELL, EDWARD LOVASICH

San Francisco Opera Boys' Chorus  
Corps de Ballet

**CHORUS DIRECTOR:**  
GIANNI LAZZARI

**CHOREOGRAPHER:**  
WILLAM CHRISTENSEN

Phonetic Transliteration by Mme. Seraphima Strelova

**TIME AND PLACE:** About 1600; Moscow and Lithuanian Frontier  
Act I: Scene 1: Outside Monastery near Moscow  
Scene 2: Cathedral Square, Moscow  
Scene 3: Cell in Monastery of the Miracle at Night,  
six years later  
Scene 4: Inn on the Lithuanian Frontier  
Scene 5: In the Kremlin  
Act II: Scene 1: In Marina's Palace, Poland  
Scene 2: Near Marina's Palace  
Act III: Scene 1: Forest of Krony near Moscow  
Scene 2: Duma in the Kremlin

Costumes by Goldstein & Co.

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## Boris Godounoff

Note: During the reign of Feodor, son of Ivan the Terrible, the all-powerful regent Boris Godounoff plots ambitiously to usurp the throne and craftily causes the death of Dimitri second son of Ivan. Upon Feodor's death, Boris feigning disinterest in the throne goes into seclusion in a monastery near Moscow, but secretly orders the police to force the populace of Moscow to beg him to assume their leadership.

ACT I, SCENE 1—Outside the monastery the multitudes fearful of the police urge Boris to declare himself Czar. As he pretends inflexibility a group of pilgrims enter and join in the supplication. SCENE 2—Boris accepts the crown and is acclaimed by the populace. SCENE 3—The aged monk Pimenn relates the story of Dimitri's murder to the novice Griorgi who determines to impersonate the slain youth and claim the throne. SCENE 4—The false Dimitri with two accomplices narrowly escapes arrest at an Inn when soldiers suspecting his real identity try to apprehend him. SCENE 5—Xenia and Feodor, children of Boris, are joined by their father who tries to comfort the grieving girl over the loss of her betrothed. Now, having attained power, he is beset with fears, which he voices when he is left alone by his children. At that point Prince Schouisky arrives bearing news of the uprising in Poland in behalf of the false Dimitri, and Boris overcome is again prey to remorse.

ACT II, SCENE 1—Incited by the Jesuit priest Rangoni, Marina resolves to further her own selfish ambition to become Czarina by supporting Grigori in his attempts to overthrow Boris. SCENE 2—Grigori, in love with Marina is entertained at her castle, where she persuades him to lead the Polish uprising against Boris.

ACT III—SCENE 1—The people are in open revolt against Boris, as the usurper Dimitri and his troops pass by en route to Moscow. Acclaiming him their lawful Czar, the masses follow him, leaving only the village idiot who laments the fate of Russia. SCENE 2—The Duma of Boyars gathered to decide Dimitri's punishment is joined by Boris, haggard from the terrible visions which haunt him. Shouisky asks the Czar to grant an audience to Pimenn, who entering relates a miracle which occurred at Dimitri's tomb . . . that of a blind shepherd whose vision was restored as he knelt in prayer at the grave. A cry of anguish from the fainting Boris interrupts the old monk. Regaining consciousness the dying Czar calls for Feodor, his successor. He commands him to rule wisely and gasping for breath Boris succumbs.



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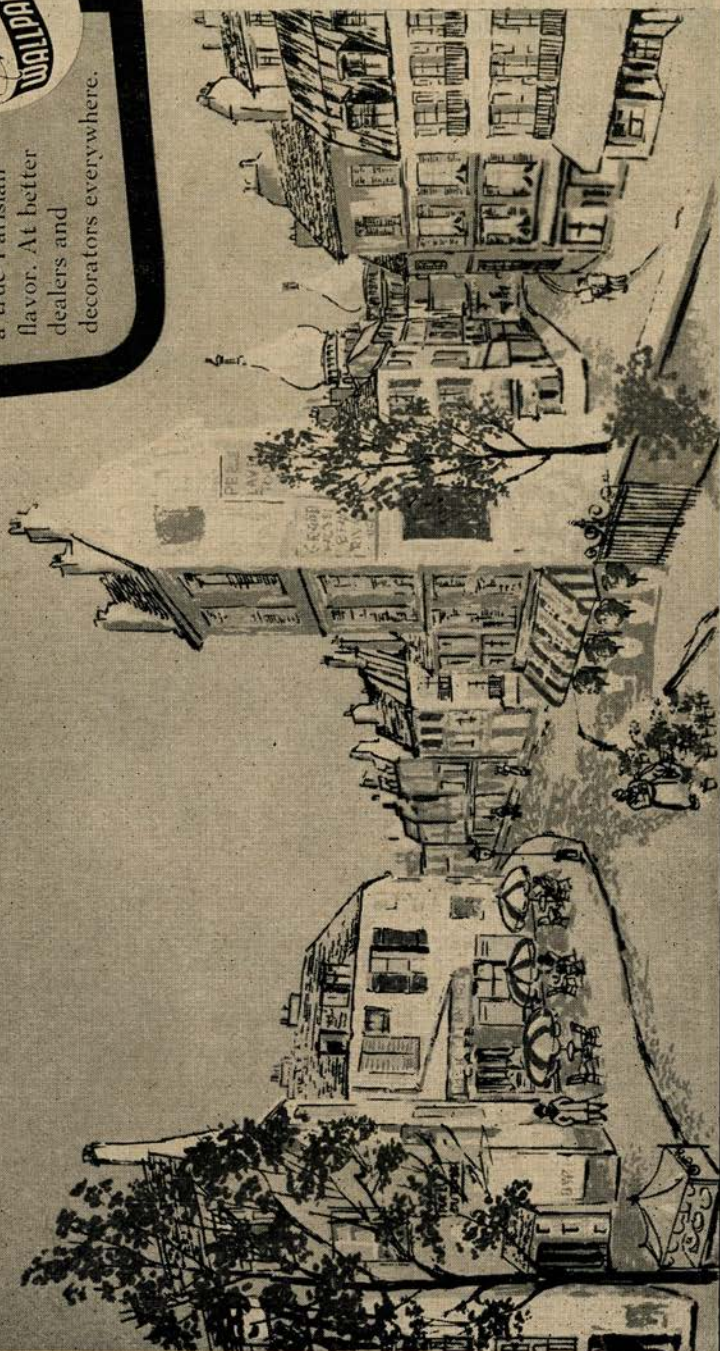
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## ANENT THE OPERAS



LEYLA GENCER, Soprano, who sings the title role in "Francesca da Rimini."



RICHARD MARTELL, Tenor, cast as Paolo in "Francesca da Rimini."

New productions highlight San Francisco Opera activities this week.

Rimsky-Korsakoff's colorful version of Moussorgsky's "Boris Godounoff," premiered earlier this week, will be repeated on Saturday evening, September 29.

Zandonai's "Francesca da Rimini," a work popular in Europe since its composition in 1914 and unperformed in the U.S. for forty years, will receive its Western Premiere on Friday, September 28 and repeated Thursday, October 4.

Triple interest hinges on this season's "Boris." Famed Bulgarian basso Boris Christoff sings the title role, the opera is sung in the original Russian language; and it introduces a revolutionary new staging with spectacular settings by designer Leo Kerz. Stage director Paul Hager provided invaluable collaboration.

An interesting vocal sidelight is the amazing proficiency in Russian achieved by the San Francisco Opera Chorus. It was accomplished through a system of phonetic transliteration devised by a well-known Bay Area musician Mme. Seraphima Strelava who also coached the Chorus in this important phase of the production.

"Francesca," another Kerz-designed opera, introduces a beautiful young Turkish soprano, Leyla Gencer, to the San Francisco Opera roster. Miss Gencer has appeared successfully with major companies abroad and is a member of the Ankara State Opera. She is the first Turkish singer to receive a major operatic assignment in this country. Her colleagues are—three gifted young artists—tenor Richard Martell who is American-born and comes to us via Europe's top opera houses; Oakland's Cesare Curzi, a veteran of several seasons here who has recently been acclaimed in Germany and in Israel; and one of Italy's foremost baritones, Anselmo Colzani.



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# Repertoire

- Thursday Night*, September 13, at 8:15  
Kirsten, Roggero, Bjoerling, Quilico, Alvary, Curzi, De Paolis, Assandri, Palangi, Blankenburg, Harvey  
DE FABRITIIS, Conductor  
MANON LESCAUT (*Puccini*)  
MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- Saturday Night*, September 15, at 8:00  
Tebaldi, Hilgenberg, Martell, Warren, Cehanovsky, Palangi, De Paolis, Blankenburg, Harvey  
CURIÉL, Conductor  
TOSCA (*Puccini*)  
MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- Sunday Afternoon*, September 16, at 2:00  
Farrell, Dominguez, Krooskos, Bjoerling, Colzani, Moscona, Assandri, Lovasich  
DE FABRITIIS, Conductor  
IL TROVATORE (*Verdi*)  
MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- Tuesday Night*, September 18, at 8:30  
Rysanek, Hilgenberg, Hotter, Suthaus, Alvary, Curzi  
STEINBERG, Conductor  
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN (*Wagner*)  
HAGER, Stage Director
- Thursday Night*, September 20, at 8:00  
Kirsten, Roggero, Bjoerling, Quilico, Alvary, Curzi, De Paolis, Assandri, Palangi, Blankenburg, Harvey  
DE FABRITIIS, Conductor  
MANON LESCAUT (*Puccini*)  
MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- Friday Night*, September 21, at 8:30  
Schwarzkopf, Schuh, Roggero, Dominguez, Warren, Campora, Guarrera, Assandri, De Paolis, Moscona  
STEINBERG, Conductor  
FALSTAFF (*Verdi*)  
HAGER, Stage Director
- Saturday Night*, September 22, at 8:00  
Rysanek, Hilgenberg, Hotter, Suthaus, Alvary, Curzi  
STEINBERG, Conductor  
THE FLYING DUTCHMAN (*Wagner*)  
HAGER, Stage Director
- Sunday Afternoon*, September 23, at 2:00  
Tebaldi, Hilgenberg, Bjoerling, Colzani, Cehanovsky, Palangi, De Paolis, Blankenburg, Harvey  
CURIÉL, Conductor  
TOSCA (*Puccini*)  
MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- Tuesday Night*, September 25, at 8:00  
Dominguez, Nadell, Crader, Wilkins, Hilgenberg, Christoff, Lewis, Hotter, Moscona, Curzi, Alvary, Manton, Lachona, Cehanovsky, Palangi, Ligeti, Assandri, Quilico, Kenig  
STEINBERG, Conductor  
BORIS GODOUNOFF (*Moussorgsky*)  
HAGER, Stage Director
- Thursday Night*, September 27, at 8:00  
Schwarzkopf, Schuh, Roggero, Dominguez, Warren, Campora, Guarrera, Assandri, De Paolis, Moscona  
STEINBERG, Conductor  
FALSTAFF (*Verdi*)  
HAGER, Stage Director
- Friday Night*, September 28, at 8:15  
Gencer, Gray, McArt, Roggero, Nadell, Crader, Hilgenberg, Martell, Colzani, Curzi, Palangi, De Paolis, Blankenburg, Lachona, Kenig, Assandri  
DE FABRITIIS, Conductor  
FRANCESCA DA RIMINI (*Zandonai*)  
MAESTRINI, Stage Director



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# Repertoire

- Saturday Night*, September 29, at 8:00 p.m. . . . . BORIS GODOUNOFF (*Moussorgsky*)  
 Dominguez, Nadell, Crader, Wilkins, Hilgenberg, Christoff, Lewis, Hotter, Moscona, Curzi,  
 Alvary, Manton, Lachona, Cehanovsky, Palangi, Ligeti, Assandri, Quilico, Kenig  
 STEINBERG, Conductor . . . . . HAGER, Stage Director
- Tuesday Night*, October 2, at 8:30 . . . . . COSI FAN TUTTE (*Mozart*)  
 Schwarzkopf, Rankin, Munsel, Lewis, Guarrera, Alvary . . . . . HAGER, Stage Director  
 SCHWIEGER, Conductor
- Thursday Night*, October 4, at 8:00 . . . . . FRANCESCA DA RIMINI (*Zandonai*)  
 Gencer, Gray, McArt, Roggero, Nadell, Crader, Hilgenberg, Martell, Colzani, Curzi, Palangi,  
 De Paolis, Blankenburg, Lachona, Kenig, Assandri . . . . . MAESTRINI, Stage Director  
 DE FABRITIIS, Conductor
- Friday Night*, October 5, at 8:00 . . . . . DIE WALKUERE (*Wagner*)  
 Nilsson, Rysanek, Rankin, Velsir, Ronson, Althof, Hilgenberg, Roggero, Krooskos, Petersen,  
 Nadell, Suthaus, Hotter, Moscona . . . . . HAGER, Stage Director  
 SCHWIEGER, Conductor
- Saturday Night*, October 6, at 8:00 . . . . . COSI FAN TUTTE (*Mozart*)  
 Schwarzkopf, Rankin, Munsel, Lewis, Guarrera, Alvary . . . . . HAGER, Stage Director  
 SCHWIEGER, Conductor
- Sunday Afternoon*, October 7, at 2:00 . . . . . MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*)  
 Albanese, Roggero, Covington, Campora, Quilico, De Paolis, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Palangi, Harvey  
 KRITZ, Conductor . . . . . MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- Tuesday Night*, October 9, at 8:15 . . . . . SIMON BOCCANEGRA (*Verdi*)  
 Tebaldi, Krooskos, Warren, Christoff, Turrini, Blankenburg, Palangi, Assandri  
 DE FABRITIIS, Conductor . . . . . MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- Thursday Night*, October 11, at 8:00 . . . . . DIE WALKUERE (*Wagner*)  
 Nilsson, Rysanek, Rankin, Velsir, Ronson, Althof, Hilgenberg, Roggero, Krooskos, Petersen,  
 Nadell, Suthaus, Hotter, Alvary . . . . . HAGER, Stage Director  
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# Repertoire

- Friday Night*, October 12, at 8:30  
Munsel, McArt, Campora, Quilico, Tajo  
CURIEL, Conductor
- Saturday Night*, October 13, at 8:00  
Tebaldi, Krooskos, Warren, Christoff, Turrini, Blankenburg,  
DE FABRITIIS, Conductor
- Sunday Afternoon*, October 14 at 2:00  
Schwarzkopf, Rankin, Munsel, Lewis, Guarrera, Alvary  
SCHWIEGER, Conductor
- Tuesday Night*, October 16, at 8:30  
Albanese, Chambers, Pearce, Quilico, Blankenburg, Tajo, Cehanovsky, De Paolis, Assandri,  
Lorenzini, Harvey, Griffin  
KRITZ, Conductor
- Wednesday Night*, October 17, at 8:00  
Rysanek, Rankin, Hilgenberg, Martell, Colzani, Moscona, Ligeti, Assandri  
DE FABRITIIS, Conductor
- Thursday Night*, October 18, at 8:00  
Munsel, McArt, Campora, Quilico, Tajo  
CURIEL, Conductor
- THE ELIXIR OF LOVE (*Donizetti*)  
MAESTRINI, Stage Director
- SIMON BOCCANEGRA (*Verdi*)  
Palangi, Assandri  
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HAGER, Stage Director
- LA BOHEME (*Puccini*)  
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KRITZ, Conductor
- Tuesday Afternoon*, October 16, at 1:00  
Kirsten, Roggero, Covington, Lewis, Guarrera, Assandri, Ligeti, Cehanovsky, Palangi, Harvey  
KRITZ, Conductor
- MADAMA BUTTERFLY (*Puccini*)  
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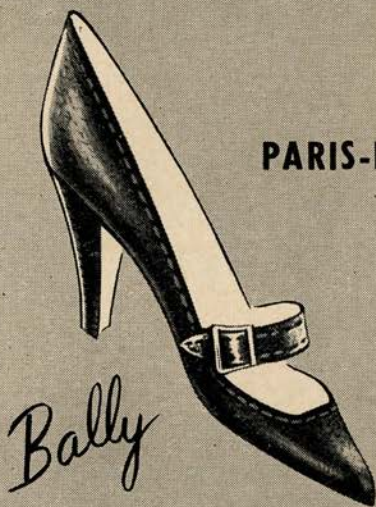
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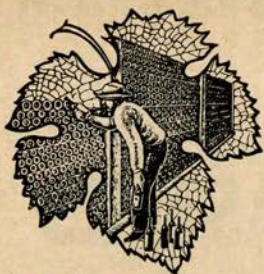
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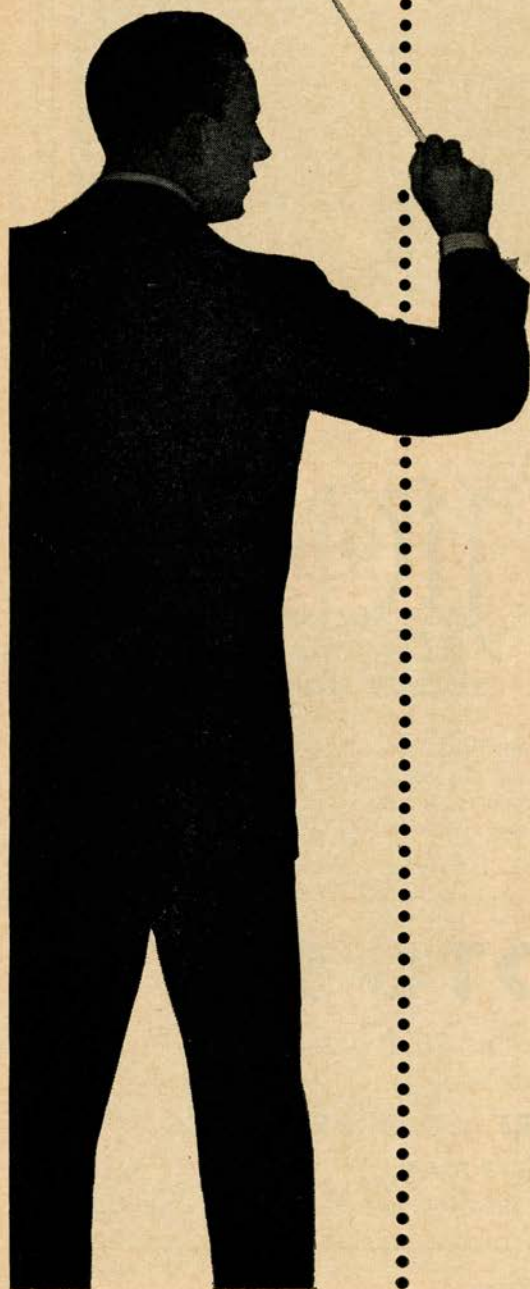
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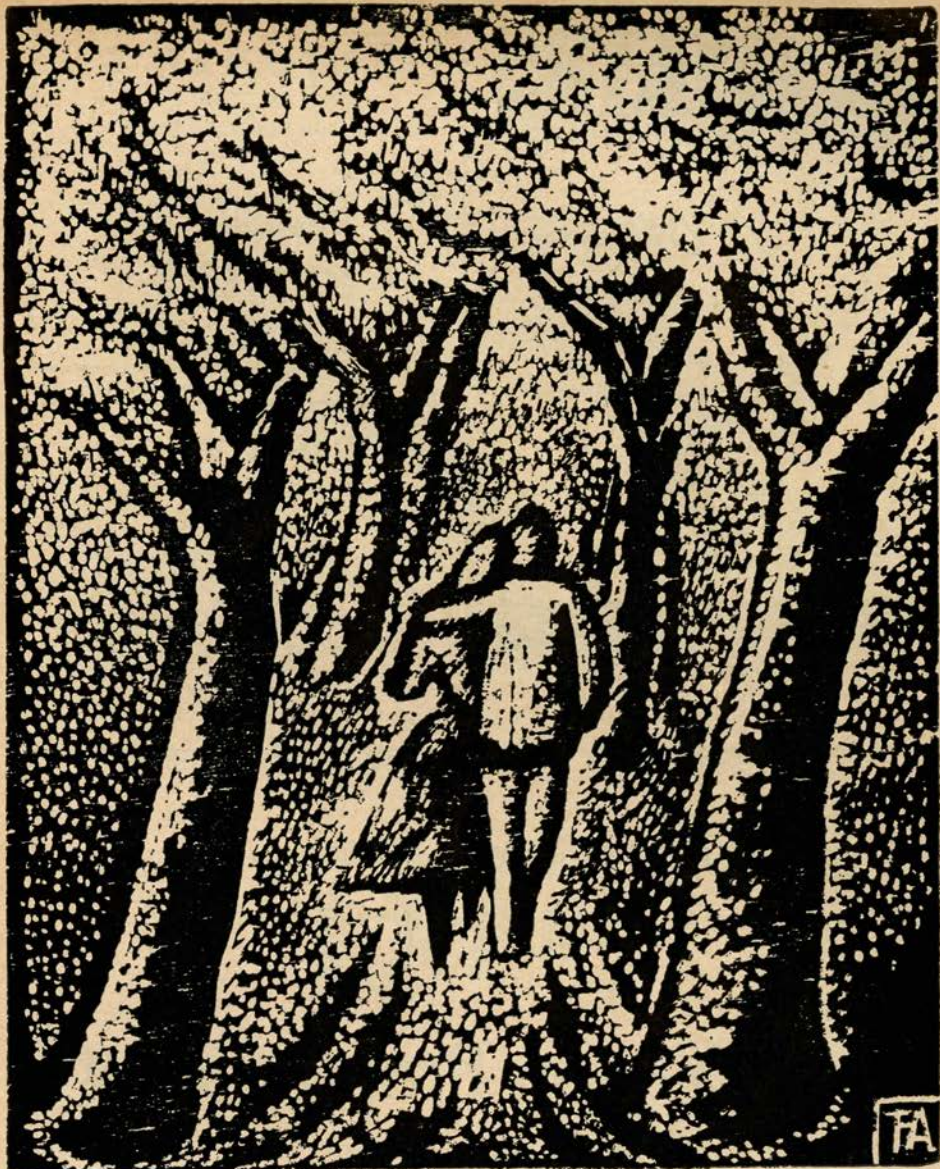
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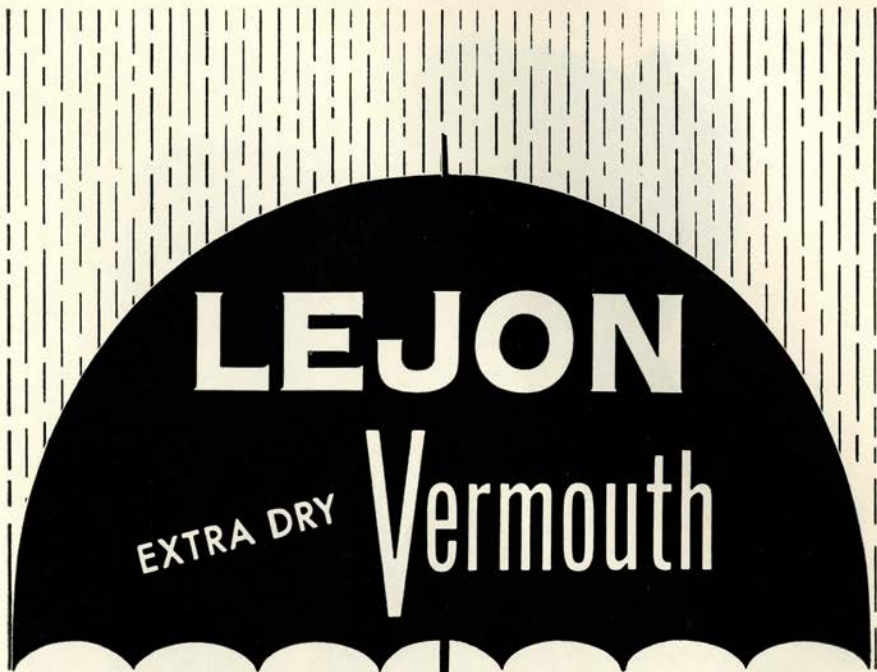
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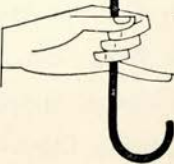
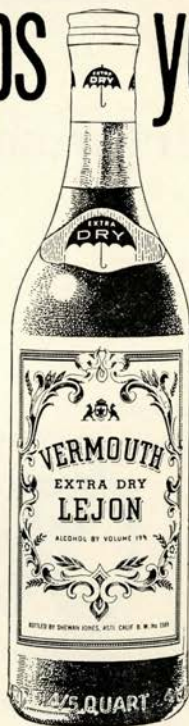
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