

May 5  
at 8:30 p.m.

# TECH NIGHT AT THE POPS

Tickets on sale in lobby of Building 10

\$3.50, \$3.00, \$2.50  
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Sponsored by the M.E.E. Baton Society

theatre . . .

## Franz Kafka's 'The Trial' a superb production

By Charles Foster Ford

Franz Kafka's works have the appearance of carefully recorded dream-sequences. They never seem to arrive where they said they were going. Like dreams, they are loaded with opaque symbolism, which is unceasingly interpreted. I've been told, for instance, that the unnamed crime of which Franz K. is accused in 'The Trial' is insensitivity to his fellow men. I have yet to see this convincingly documented.

The adaptation staged by Joseph Everingham and the Dramashop last week was pure Kafka for the first half: chaotic, surprising, incomplete, charged with very real emotions in very unreal settings. In the second half, however, the materials of the novel were used in a much more theatrical fashion, and the result was quite close to the best "Theatre of The Absurd" style.

As Joseph K., the puzzled defendant, Roger Gans was brilliant. From his initial arrogance and independence, through his growing concern and his crafty attempts to seek aid, to his final resignation to his fate, Mr. Gans

THE TRIAL, by Franz Kafka, adapted and directed by Joseph Everingham, assisted by Helen Bottomly Brumby, presented by the Dramashop. Lighting designer, Larry Valby '63; set designer, Richard Krasin, '63; costume designer, John Leide '63; stage manager, Phillips Hooper, '63; property mistress, Caroline Crawford; sound effects, Stephen Schuman, '64; make-up, Joan and David Dunton; musical settings, Fred Prahl.

Cast included:  
Joseph K. . . . . Roger Gans '63  
Frau Grubach . . . . Lillian Aylward  
Police Inspector, etc. . . . . Joseph Morlan  
Erma, etc. . . . . Miriam Dushman  
Fraulein Burstner . . . . . Norma Anderson  
Laundress . . . . . Joan Tolentino  
Fraulein Montag . . . . Beatrice Paipert  
Uncle Albert . . . . . Rob Lanchester '63  
Advocate . . . . . Fred Prahl '63  
Leni . . . . . Sonia Grant  
Rudi Block . . . . . Michael Jacobs  
Titorelli . . . . . David Liroff '65  
Priest . . . . . Richard Reese '66  
Children . . . . . Debby Wermuth, Eric Wermuth, Gaye House, Donna House  
Taking several roles . . . . . Steven Frank '63; Gary Feldman '63; Thomas Survilla '65; Barry Warner '65; Jeffrey Meldman '65



While Leni (Sonia Grant) looks on, Roger Gans '63 denounces the bedridden Rudi Block (Michael Jacobs) groveling on his knees in Franz Kafka's 'The Trial' Wednesday, Thursday, last week.

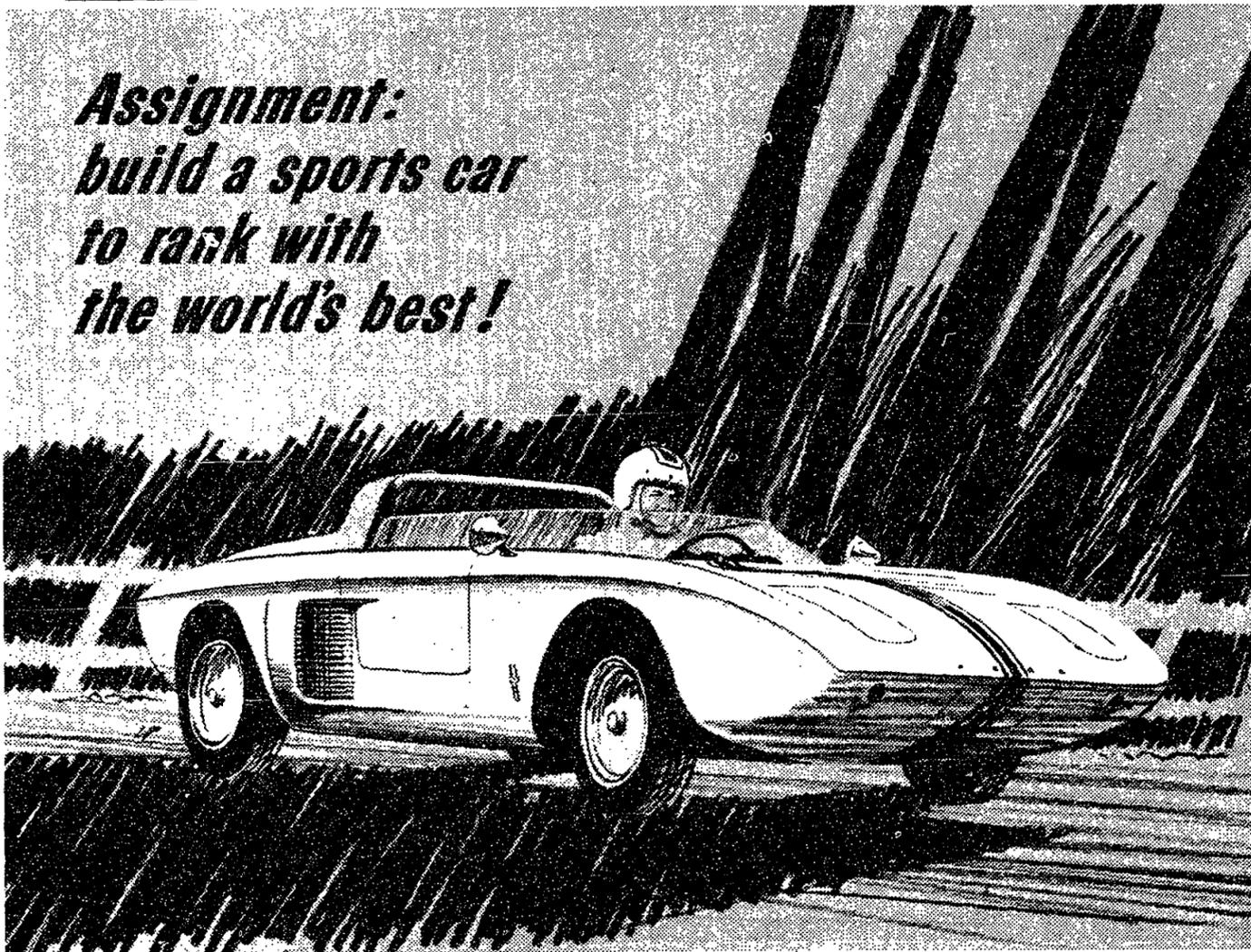
was at all times correctly believable in a highly unbelievable situation.

K. seeks aid from several women during his trial, and these were also well-played roles: as the mother-figure Frau Grubach, his landlady, Lillian Aylward; as Fraulein Burstner, a lawyer's

secretary whose only asset is her loving nature, Norma Anderson; as her friend Fraulein Montag, who puts an end to this affair, Beatrice Paipert; as the laundress who sleeps with judges, Joan Tolentino; as Leni, the maid and mistress of a famous Advocate, Sonia Grant.

Almost all these girls (Montag and Grubach are the exceptions) fall immediately for Joseph K., and their roles as willing but useless tools are almost identical. It is a credit to both the director and his actresses, then, that each one emerged as an individual portrait.

The play proceeds as a series of individual interviews, broken at four points by crowd scenes. On the small Little Theatre stage, these crowds were very effectively managed . . . the more so since most of them were massed in front of the curtain, to cover scene changes behind it.



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