

'Gigi' Finds Acting 'Terrific Fun' But Plans to Return to Her Studies

By OLIVE DICKASON

"I'm having terrific fun," Montreal's Gigi said last night after a performance at the Mountain Playhouse.

"I never knew I could go on the stage," tall, black-haired Diane Giguere said seriously, as she sipped a soft-drink. The 16-year-old girl, who has never been on the stage before, is scoring a hit in the title role of the play Gigi, which is in its second week.

Diane's fellow actors are all enthusiastic about the young girl who is completely unspoiled by her sudden success. Said Guy Beaulne, the play's director: "It has been a pleasure to work with her, although she knew nothing about acting when she started with us."

Lives The Part

Diane knows little about stage technique as yet, Guy continued, so she acts "by instinct." "And she doesn't just act a part, she lives it. After one of the performances she came backstage and apologized because she hadn't really cried during one of the scenes. She said she said she would do better next time, and produce real tears."

Diane, who is just graduated from Marie de France school, and who will be going to McGill this fall, is taking her new career in her stride. Her father, Bob Giguere, is still somewhat surprised about it all.

"I never expected anything like this to happen," he said. "I made it quite clear that she could do this for the summer if she wanted, but that she had to go back to her studies in the fall."

"That's alright," said Diane calmly, "I much prefer to do that anyway." She studied dramatic arts for one month before taking her first professional job as an actress, and will continue these studies while at McGill.

Never Expected It

"I never really expected to go on the stage," she continued. "But now that I've done some acting, I naturally want to do more."

She found the rehearsals harder work than the actual performances, she said . . . and also, she was more nervous then than she is now. "I wasn't nervous at all the first night, but the second night it was just terrible," she confessed. "After that it got worse and worse for several

nights, but now it is getting better."

Learning her part, which is a heavy one, presented no trouble, Diane said. "My memory isn't always so good in school work," she laughed, "but in this case I had no trouble at all."

Norma Springford, who is the play's producer, and Director Beaulne, are both very pleased with their find. "She is a natural," they agreed. This play,



university beckons
Diane 'Gigi' Giguere . . .

incidentally, is the first one produced by Mountain Playhouse to have all its costumes specially designed and made up for it. Tom Owen did the costumes, many of which were actually made up at the playhouse itself.

Diane's black eyes sparkled when asked if she liked clothes. "I love them," she declared. "I like very wide skirts, lots of crinolines. I like feminine clothes."

What had she planned to become before going on the stage? "A journalist," the young girl answered seriously. Her grandfather is Jean Charles Harvey of Le Petit Journal; her father, however, went into law, and now specializes in labor conciliation. "I once nearly wanted to become a professional swimmer," the tall, graceful girl added. "But I got an infection in my ear that prevented that. I guess I will have to see what I am good at before I will know what career I want to follow."

After a pause she added: "But I do love the theatre very much."