

# Amateur Theatre Does Good Work . .



Rehearsals are both hard work and fun for amateur actors Claudette Bernier, Jean Bourbonnais and Barbara Snelson.



Stage Manager Barbara Snelson issues some high-flying orders to players Marie-Louise Holtz, Marion Lamont, Ken Thompson and Alexander Djabadary.



Claudette Bernier and Jean Bourbonnais in a dramatic moment in the Saroyan play, "Hello Out There".

## It Develops Group Expression, Gets People 'Out of Themselves'

By OLIVE DICKASON

Canadians like to act. What's more, they're good at it, and those who aren't acting like to go and see those who are.

"Dramatics are a definite part of our social life," Mrs. Marie-Louise Holtz, a drama teacher, said yesterday. "It isn't as skilfully done as in Europe, but it's more alive and has a bright future."

Because it believes that theatre is an important factor in social life, Montreal's Y.W.C.A. has formed a Drama Club, with Mrs. Holtz pro-

ducing and directing the plays. The club comes under the Y's art workshop department which is headed by Mrs. J. Bennich.

### Group Formed

The club has organized a group called The Studio Players which is a small United Nations. Mrs. Bennich comes from Poland, Mrs. Holtz from Germany. The players themselves include English and French speaking Canadians, and one who was born in Stalin's native state . . . Georgia in Russia.

"There are many things in drama which don't depend on language," said Mrs. Holtz. Language difficulties notwithstanding, the group has put on two plays . . . Saroyan's "Hello Out There" and Thornton Wilder's "Happy Journey." Present plans call for a production a month.

"A thriving amateur theatre is very important to the development of professional acting," Mrs. Holtz explained. "I think that Canadians have a lot of talent."

When she's not working with The Studio Players, Mrs. Holtz teaches at McGill's School of Social Work. She aims eventually to start a school for drama. "A first rate school, one for actors who have had a bit of experience," she explained.

In the meantime the "Y" is doing its best to encourage its amateur actor group because it sees drama as "art's group work" . . . in other words, it teaches relationship with others on an artistic basis.

table outgrowth of unquestionably genuine affection. If you truly felt that affection for your children you would sacrifice superficialities, provide them with a humble home, playthings from the kitchen cabinet if need be, public school education, but the warmth of sympathetic understanding, attention to their little joys and sorrows, help in solving their problems, so that they would adore you, never asking, "What does she do for us?"

Do you expect them to enjoy going "shopping" or to "the dentist's" with you more than going to the movies with their father?

If you or your friends have problems concerning your babies, write Beulah France for her help. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for her reply.

(Copyright 1952, Gen. Features Corp.)