

POINT OF DEPARTURE

by Jean Anouilh
(translated by Kitty Black)

Characters in order of appearance :

FATHER	...	...	...	Gordon Hewlett
ORPHEUS	...	...	...	John Truman
CASHIER	...	...	...	Mary Barker
STATION WAITER	...	...	...	Fred Dutton
MONSIEUR HENRY	...	...	...	Maurice Bartell
1ST GIRL	...	...	...	Jean Walls
2ND GIRL	...	...	...	Rosemary Eales
MOLAC	...	...	...	Robert Wright
THE MANAGER	...	...	...	Bill Ring
EURIDICE	...	...	...	Jean Clark
MOTHER	...	...	...	Yvonne Mitchley
VINCENT	...	...	...	Auberon Pitt
MATHIAS	...	...	...	Paul Hopkins
HOTEL WAITER	...	...	...	Auberon Pitt
A CLERK	...	...	...	George Tarry

ACT I. The Refreshment Room of a French Provincial Station

ACT II. A room in a Marseilles Hotel

ACT III. Scene 1. The Refreshment Room

Scene 2. The Hotel room

The play produced by John Mayall

Settings designed and executed by Bettina and Gordon Hewlett
with assistance from Rosemary Eales

Lighting by Harry Edwards and Roger Bartell

Wigs by Gustave

Stage Staff under the direction of Fred Dutton :

Eileen Spraggon, Jean Walls, David Llewellyn and Colin Johnston

PRODUCER'S NOTES

A good story will always last. Such a one is the Greek legend that tells how, at the death of his wife, Euridice, the inconsolable Orpheus went down into Hades to bring her back to life. The infernal deities, won over by his music, permitted Euridice to return on condition that Orpheus should not look back as she walked behind him. He broke this condition and Euridice was taken back to Hades. Grief stricken Orpheus decides to withdraw completely from the society of women, however during a Dionysiac orgy he was torn to pieces by the Thracian women. So only in death was he united to his Euridice.

In "Point of Departure," Jean Anouilh's version of the old legend, we see many of the qualities that distinguish his work. The fantasy, symbolism, the delicate handling of the young lovers, the excitement, the joy, the sordiness and the irony of life.

Like all good plays it has a profound effect on those who see it, leaving one in the end with a feeling of sorrow and yet a profound peace. Perhaps because in some strange way Anouilh seems to touch the complete circle of mysteries : birth, life and death.

In this play Anouilh shows Orpheus groping pathetically for a lasting purity, truth and happiness, while Death, in the shape the firm but gentle Henri, endeavours to show him that this is beyond his reach in life. We see sordiness, cruelty and the seeming pointlessness of existence in all the minor characters except the Cashier and the Station Waiter, both of whom are as it were the custodians of the gate of death, the station, the point of departure.

We have not tried to "do" anything with the play in this production. We have only tried to present it as simply and as truthfully as we feel the author would wish.

MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS ABROAD

Audiences may be interested to hear that the Players are taking their touring production of Christopher Fry's "The Lady's not for Burning" to Emden and Hamburg in August.

The Season will close with a Production of The Tragedy of

HAMLET

Prince of Denmark

by William Shakespeare

FOR ONE WEEK JUNE 22nd—JUNE 29th 1959