

# 'Desk Set' is done efficiently

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research assistants, Peg, Sadel and Ruthe, spend much of their time discussing the foibles of men, order dresses from Bonwit's and take prolonged coffee breaks. Enter Richard Sumner, the president's nephew, who calls himself a methods engineer — another euphemism for an efficiency expert.

Sumner installs a new-fangled electronic-brain, artificial-memory machine, which the women fear will jeopardize their jobs. Sumner, of course, arouses their ire. He and Bunny become skilled sparring partners. For, although the office is ostensibly run in a lachrymical fashion,

the "girls" are encyclopedic whizzes at supplying instant information on a plethora of subjects, and Bunny, for one, has a phenomenal retentive memory.

Act 1 is inclined to drag, but the tempo quickens beautifully in the second act, when the booby ritual of the office Christmas party is in full swing, complete, with mistletoe kisses and random necking. Emmie (the machine) proves her fallibility by printing pink slips not only to the girls, who expect them, but to everyone in the company, including the president. She (Emmie) eventually breaks down with much puffing of smoke, and human memory wins the day.

VIVACIOUS Madeline Shapiro (Bunny) is backed up by strong performances by Colleen M. Kane (Sadel), Annette Hilla (Ruthe) and Linda Brick who plays Peg with spirit. Albert Burdick is suitably stuffy as Sumner, who is a pussy-cat at heart. Bless him! It was never his intention that the girls should be fired. Thomas Nelson is a trite bland as Bunny's boyfriend, but what can one expect from a fellow who can't pluck up the courage to propose (he does in the end).

Manon Melgaard, who lives in Birmingham, was born in England. She has been a free-lance writer for 10 years with a special interest in art and theater.

# Actors return in 'Joseph'

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was the first place I was offered a musical, a Gilbert & Sullivan revue."

After a lot of regional theater around Canada and lots of television based in Toronto, he made a film "like 'Porky' on skis." It kind of died, although the movie has been shown on cable in Canada and a few other places.

"I've been doing all stage," Goodspeed emphasized.

The New York Shakespeare Festival got his resume and called him to audition.

"They wanted someone who could sing a classical score without that trained tenor sound," he said. Goodspeed, who was doing a show at night at the Royal York, flew

into New York and got the understudy role of Frederic in "The Pirates of Penzance."

After being understudy for Patrick Cassidy and Peter Noone who both appeared in the role on Broadway, Goodspeed went on national tour in the role of Frederic. "I played five weeks at the Fisher about three years ago," he said.

"Then some of the same producers asked me to play Joseph, just after the show closed on Broadway. Two other shows had gone out on tour during the Broadway run."

"I WAS ASKED to play Joseph all over the states and Canada, in 65 cities, from one-nighters to five-six week stops."

Goodspeed also has done shows

in Canada and appeared in "Diamonds" off-Broadway for Harold Price. "It ran for six months. I was in it near the end," he said.

After his name came up for the current production of "Joseph," Goodspeed met Harry Nederlander and then landed the part. After the show closes in Birmingham, it will open two days later at the Drury Lane in Chicago for a 10-week run.

Goodspeed said the show is "very pop-rock oriented." "It has many styles in it from country-western to calypso. It's done with a narrator. It's written to be fun, commercial and warm at the same time. Moments important in Joseph's life are still kept in the piece. It has visual excitement and a lot of fun."

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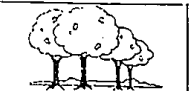
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