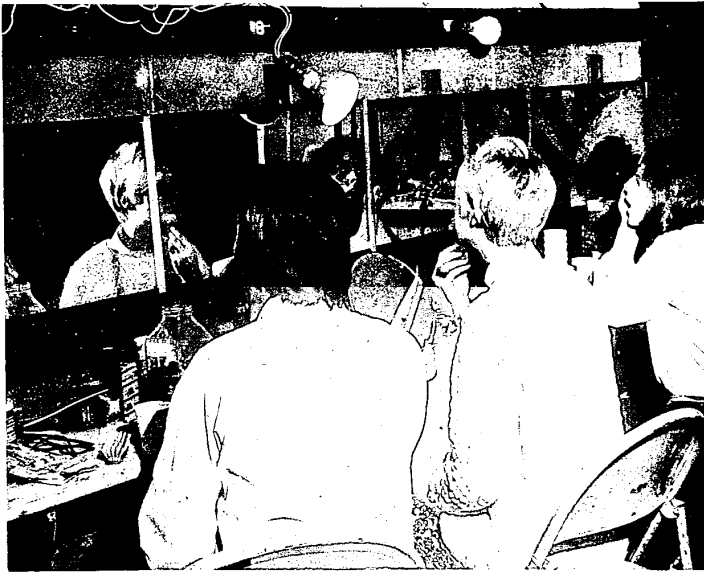


This Actress Says Broadway's Not Her Thing



THE BRIGHT LIGHTS—While Ginna Parsons (far right) says that the bright lights of Broadway aren't for her, she does need high wattage when she joins Bill Tidd and Pam Buchanan.

It looks as though there is a community theater stage somewhere in the country that will benefit from Ginna Parsons' training as an actress.

"I'm not going to Broadway because I value my sanity," she says. The 20-year-old redhead is a member of the Will-O-Way Theatre Repertory Company and a junior at Northwood Institute of Indiana.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Parsons of 25345 Ridgewood Drive, Farmington.

GINNA, who says that she has been "performing since before I can remember," is definite about the fact that she doesn't want to pursue the stage as a professional career.

"I can't see myself walking from door to door and conducting all the business matters," she says.

"I love acting and I think there are many beautiful and interesting things said in the theater, but I am getting married in August and my family life will be the most important thing."

"I want to keep up my painting and acting," Ginna continued. "I think of my training as an art and I have the feeling that I will use the training some place and some time in a way that it will be beneficial to me and to someone else."

"Maybe this will be in a community theater group or maybe in the field of education," she concludes.

THE MAN Ginna will marry in August is Don Fiandt, a junior at Northwood from Fort Wayne, Ind.

When Ginna graduated from Farmington High School, she was enrolled as a drama major at Ohio University. She heard about the Northwood program and changed because "I wanted to act and not spend all my time on academic subjects."

Northwood prides itself on structuring the curriculum so that students learn by actual experience. Classroom and practical experience are blended together throughout the degree work.

The Will-O-Way performances are all a part of the Northwood program as the theater's director, Celia Merrill Turner, is chairman of Northwood's Performing Arts Program.

Ginna is one of five Northwood juniors who form the repertory company. The group arrived at Bloomfield Hills theater in September and began work refurbishing the theater which had been used only on weekends.

REHEARSALS for the opening show, "The Apple Tree," started soon after and once that show was opened the students began rehearsal sessions for the Neil Simon comedy, "Star Spangled Girl."

Ginna appears in both productions which are currently running in repertory Tuesday through Sunday. She has minor roles in the

musical, "Apple Tree," and appears as the female lead in the three-member cast for "Star Spangled Girl."

Other members of the repertory company are: Pam Buchanan of Pontiac; Sharon Maher of Rochester, N.Y.; Bill Tidd of St. Louis, Mo.; and Gary Graham of Indiana.

Four of the five students live in their own special quarters in the Turner home right next to the theater.

The fifth, Gary Graham, is married and he and his wife have an apartment nearby.

While refurbishing the theater the students found enough stage furniture in the properties barn to furnish their combination living-room - dining room.

WORK CHORES are split up between the five, with everybody pitching in to see that the work is done.

Ginna has the reputation for being the gourmet cook in the group, but admits that she can't make coffee or cook eggs.

Like many other new brides, Ginna will undoubtedly learn to make coffee and how to cook eggs in the future.

For the sake of the community theater movement, however, let's hope that this isn't the only means that Ginna finds to use her training to benefit both herself and someone else.

Story: Sue Shaughnessy

Photos: Ralph Evert;

Will-O-Way

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Mr. and Mrs. William Parsons of 25345 Ridgewood Drive, Farmington, talk to their daughter, Ginna.



SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE -- Ginna (right) and her roommate, Sharon Maher, share an apple during a break in the Will-O-Way production "The Apple Tree." Sharon and Ginna have been roommates since they started classes at Northwood.



WHERE IS HE?—That's the question Ginna Parsons asks Gary Graham in this scene from the Will-O-Way production of "Star Spangled Girl."

GOURMET COOK—Ginna has the reputation of being the gourmet cook in the Will-O-Way Company, but admits that she can't make coffee or cook eggs.