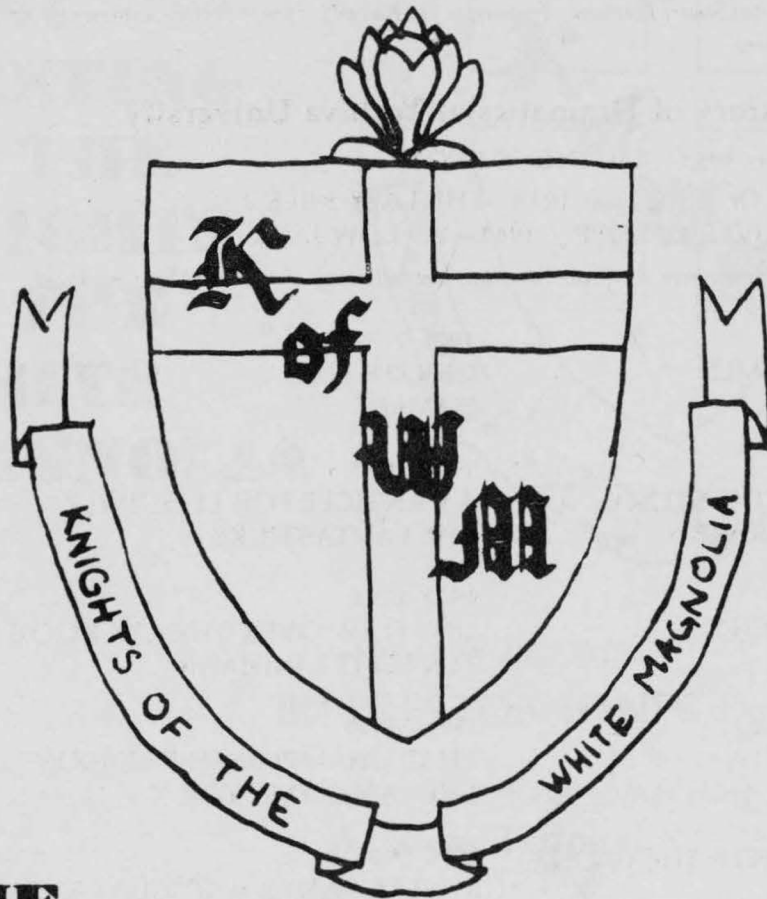


The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society

January 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1978



Our Thirteenth Season



**THE
LAST MEETING OF
THE KNIGHTS
OF THE WHITE
MAGNOLIA**

The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society
500 WEST 185th STREET / NEW YORK, N.Y. 10033



THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNING BOARD OF OFFICERS

From left to right: (front row) Arther Bromberg, Secretary; David Ginsburg, President; Lance Dunoff, Vice President; (back row) Stuart Kurland, Treasurer; Jon Kusnitz, Honor Society Representative; Steven Leichman, Vice President.

History of Dramatics at Yeshiva University

Under student direction: 1936—JOURNEY'S END

*Under the direction of Dr. Irving Linn: 1938—THE LAST MILE /
1942—WINGS OVER EUROPE / 1943—YELLOW JACK*

Since Dr. Beukas has taken over as theater director, the following shows have been produced:

1965-1966

TWELVE ANGRY MEN
PANTOMINE-1

1971-1972

CHILD'S PLAY
HAMLET

1966-1967

DUMB WAITER ZOO STORY
HOME OF THE BRAVE

1972-1973

A CANTICLE FOR LEIBOWITZ
THE FANTASTICKS

1967-1968

INCIDENT AT VICHY
OLIVER

1973-1974

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST
TEN LITTLE INDIANS

1968-1969

BILLY BUDD
ARIA DA CAPO
THE DWARFS
THE INDIAN WANTS THE BRONX

1974-1975

THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON
THE GOOD DOCTOR

1969-1970

STALAG 17
MARAT/SADE

1975-1976

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN
ARE DEAD
THE EFFECT OF GAMMA RAYS ON
MAN-IN-THE-MOON MARIGOLDS

1970-1971

QUEENS OF REBELS
NO TIME FOR SERGEANTS

1976-1977

INDIANS
THE ROAR OF THE GREASE PAINT

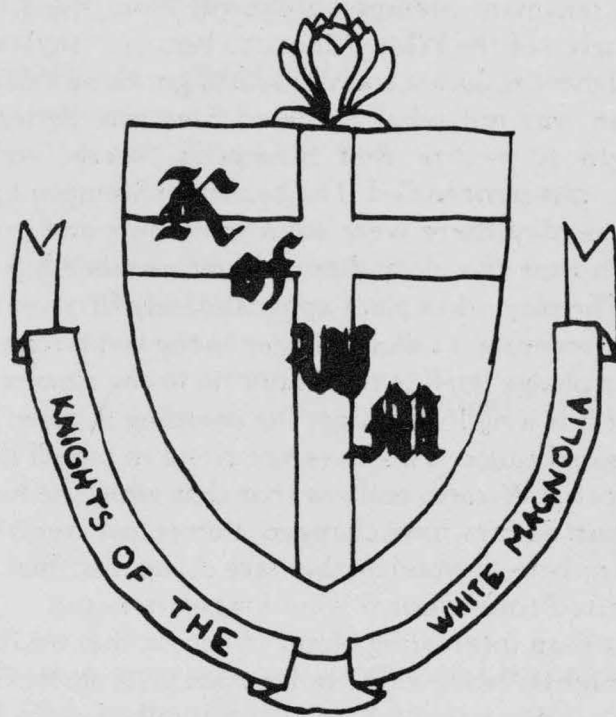
1977-1978

THE LAST MEETING OF THE
KNIGHTS OF THE WHITE MAGNOLIA

**The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society is currently celebrating its
Thirteenth Year of Fine Productions
under the direction of Dr. Anthony S. Beukas**

THE
YESHIVA COLLEGE
DRAMATICS SOCIETY
and its
EXECUTIVE GOVERNING BOARD
proudly presents

**THE
LAST
MEETING
OF THE
KNIGHTS
OF THE
WHITE
MAGNOLIA**



a play in two acts
BY PRESTON JONES

*(One of the three plays comprising
A Texas Trilogy)*

The entire production designed and directed by

Dr. Anthony S. Beukas
Faculty Advisor and Artistic Director

Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service

THE TAKING OF PICTURES OR THE OPERATING OF ANY
RECORDING DEVICE IN THE THEATRE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.

About the Play

The play we are presenting this evening is one of the three plays originally written as a part of *A Texas Trilogy* by Preston Jones. The scene is Bradleyville, Texas, a small, nearly deserted, west Texas town forgotten by the world. The play opens with what will be the "*Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia*." The "Knights" were first envisioned by Maynard C. Stempco, an exKlansman. Stempco broke off from the Klu Klux Klan and formed the Knights of the White Magnolia because "anybody that's got to put on a white bedsheet to kick a coon's ass has got to be a damn fool." Yet, the ritual of the Klan was not what bothered Stempco. Beneath the surface, we gradually begin to realize that Stempco's "secret writin's" consist of a spiritual commitment to G-d. The beauty in Stempco's philosophy attracted many. In its heyday there were even governors and senators as fellow Knights, but with time the glory dimmed and membership began to fall.

The play takes place approximately fifty years after the "Knights" heyday. The meeting is called to order as the last remaining members take the pledge. The pledge itself is their only tie to the sincere ideals of White Magnoliaism. But it is a hollow pledge, the meaning is gone; the meaning is lost, as is their original cause. This does not come to fortell the end, when L.D., the Grand Imperial Wizard, realizes that that which he has for so long feared, has come about. Things have changed, things just aren't the same. No longer do any of them believe in what they are doing, for their faith is absent, their cause of White Protestantism is no longer relevant.

It is an interesting blend of people that we find in the meeting room of the "Knights," each alone in his own little shell. Their only common link is that each hides a tragic flaw which totally defines his personality. The Colonel's guilt of responsibility for the death of George Plummer; Red's knowledge that he, as the bartender, is the cause of Skip's drinking problem; Skip's drinking as a cover-up for his wasted life of non-accomplishment; Milo's adolescent allegiance to his mother; and L.D.'s attempt at resolving all the differences for the group's benefit—all combine to allow an individual expression of helpless resignation to the powers that be.

Probably the impact of the play lies in its message to the audience. Without unity of belief, unity of being is useless. If we, as a society, neglect to interact with others as thinking, feeling individuals, we, too, will fail to see the meaning of our lives, resigning us to a physical being of non-existence.

Aharon Ungar (*member of the cast*)

The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia was first presented in New York City by Robert Whitehead and Roger L. Stevens (as one of three full-length plays in repertory collectively entitled, **A Texas Trilogy**) at the Broadhurst Theatre on September 22, 1976. It was directed by Alan Schneider; the scenery and lighting were by Ben Edwards; the costumes were by Jane Greenwood.

THE LAST MEETING OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE WHITE MAGNOLIA

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

(in order of appearance)

Ramsey-Eyes	Sholom Twersky
Rufe Phelps	Jon Kusnitz
Olin Potts	Irv Cohen
Red Grover	Aharon Ungar
L.D. Alexander	Howard Lichtenstein
Skip Hampton	David Renzer
Colonel J.C. Kinkaid	Steven Passer
Lonnie Roy McNeil	David Stein
Milo Crawford	Stuart Kurland

The Place

Bradleyville, Texas—population 6,000—a small, dead West Texas town in the middle of a big, dead West Texas prairie between Abilene and San Angelo. The new highway has bypassed it and now the world is trying to.

All action takes place in the meeting room of the “Knights of the White Magnolia” on the third floor of the Cattleman’s Hotel.

Who's Who in the Cast

IRV COHEN (Olin Potts) makes his YCDS debut with this performance. Irv is a sophomore in YC and JSS from Kansas City.

STUART KURLAND (Milo Crawford) A junior in YP from Chicago, Stuart is a familiar face YCDS. Last year, he appeared as Uncle Sam in *Greasepaint*. A political science major, Stuart is looking forward to law school. This year, Stuart is Treasurer of the Society.

JON KUSNITZ (Rufe Phelps) a premed sophomore, has appeared in *No, No Nanette*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, as Andrew MacClaren in *Brigadoon*, and John Dickenson in *1776*. He has also appeared in such YCDS productions as *Indians* and *Greasepaint*. Jon is currently serving as Honor Society Representative on the YCDS Governing Board.

HOWARD LICHTENSTEIN (L.D.) Howie's performance as L.D. marks his fourth role on the YCDS stage. His previous experiences include comedy (*The Good Doctor*), surrealism (*Indians*), and musical roles (*Roar of the Greasepaint*). This character provides Howie with his first opportunity for realism. A past president of the Society, Howie is a double major in pre-dentistry and psychology. After getting married in August, he hopes to enter graduate school in one of these areas.

STEVEN PASSER (Colonel J.C. Kinkaid) This performance marks Steve's twentieth appearance in a major production. He has appeared in such shows as *Indians*, *Roar of the Greasepaint*, *Look Homeward Angel*, *Marigolds*, *The Lark*, *No No Nanette*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*. He was presented the best actor award for his performance as Willaim Cody (*Indians*), and Joel (*Marigolds*), the past two seasons at YCDS. This past

summer he appeared in The Summer Theatre Festival production of *The Twelfth Night* and directed *The Importance of Being Ernest*. Steve is studying theater here at YU.

DAVID RENZER (Skip Hampton) Although interested in a career in law, David's interests expand beyond such academic realms. His personal interests encompass a strong involvement in music, where he played piano both in a professional band in Miami Beach, as well as currently in the Y.C. Jazz Ensemble. Although this makes his debut on the YCDS stage, David has appeared in a summer stock production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. As far as he knows, "he wasn't supposed to bring the refreshments tonight!"

DAVID STEIN (Lonnie Roy McNeil) a sophomore from Levittown, Pa. is making his debut on the YCDS stage with this performance. David is looking forward to a career in either law or Jewish leadership.

SHOLOM TWERSKY (Ramsey-Eyes) A sophomore from Philadelphia, this marks Sholom's first role in a YCDS production. His previous experiences include *Flower Drum Song*, *The Pajama Game*, and Will Parker in *Oklahoma*. Sholom is presently majoring in political science.

AHARON UNGAR (Red Grover) A sophomore formerly from Atlanta, Ga., Aharon has found a new mode of expression through YCDS. This being his acting debut, Aharon worked on lighting, for *Roar of the Greasepaint* last season. Majoring in political science, with a minor in economics, Aharon plans on obtaining both MBA and JD degrees. We are sure Aharon will continue to be a familiar face in YCDS productions.

About the Director

DR. ANTHONY S. BEUKAS

Dr. Anthony S. Beukas comes from a small midwest town of Campbell, Ohio. He went to the University of Iowa and majored in English, and Speech and Drama. After receiving his B.A. from Iowa, he began work on his M.F.A. at Yale University. His dissertation topic at Yale was on Richard Burton's *Hamlet*. He was assisted in the completion of his work by the interest and cooperation of both Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. Dr. Beukas has received his Ph.D. degree in Theatre from New York University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. His dissertation topic was *The Theme and Practice in The Dramatic Literature of Nikos Kazantzakis*. He has a wide background of theatrical experience which starts with his position as director of musicals at Camp Scatico in Elizaville, New York. He was the initiator and director of Children's Dramatic Workshop at the famous Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Connecticut. No professional director is without summer stock credits, and his are impressive. He has done five summers as an acting member of the reperatory company at the Merry-Go-Round Theatre in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. He worked at the Williamstown Summer Theatre in Williamstown, Massachusetts under a special Equity contract and acted for Joseph Papp as a member of the ensemble at the New York Shakespeare productions for Mr. Papp—King Henry VI, parts I and II. He has done an industrial for American Cyanamid in New Haven, Connecticut. Dr. Beukas has had professional training with Lee and Paula Strasberg. He has studies several years with Uta Hagen and Herbert Berghof Studios.

Dr. Anthony S. Beukas is Assistant Professor of Speech and Drama, the Artistic Director and Faculty Advisor of the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society and Faculty Advisor to the Chi Pi Chapter of Alpha Psi Omega-Chi Pi Chapter Honorary National Dramatics Fraternity here at Yeshiva College.

His wife, Constance, is an elementary school teacher in New York City. They have two sons, Stephen, who is twelve, and Michael who is nine. This production ushers in the thirteenth year of the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society with Dr. Beukas as its Artistic Director.

THE LAST MEETING OF THE
KNIGHTS OF THE WHITE MAGNOLIA

Technical Staff

Stage Manager
LANCE B. DUNOFF

Production Supervisor
STEVEN LEICHMAN

Set Construction
DAVID KATZENSTEIN
STEVEN LEICHMAN
DAVID GINSBURG

Construction Assistants
FRED CARROL
ISIDOR FRIEDENBERG
JOSHUA CAPLAN
ELI BERNSTEIN
HAL RUDIN
AVI AUERBACH
JOEL POMERANTZ
MIKE LIPKIN

Set Design
STEVEN PASSER
DR. ANTHONY S. BEUKAS

Lighting by
JOHN KRUG—YU '74

Lighting Staff
DAVID GINSBURG—supervisor
HAL RUDIN
HARVEY LEE WIND
ARTHER BROMBERG

Accoustical Engineers
JON CAPLAN
BARRY LESKOWITZ

Music Concept
DR. ANTHONY S. BEUKAS

Properties Managers
JERRY KAPLAN
JOEL PMERANTZ
LANCE B. DUNOFF

Costume Concept
DR. ANTHONY S. BEUKAS

Costumes by
EAVES OF NEW YORK

Wardrobe Manager
JEFF JACOBSON

Make-up Supervisor
JON KUSNITZ

Artwork
ALAN SCHWARTZ—supervisor
JOSH KREMER
ELI BERNSTEIN
CHALRES BARAX
NEAL AUERBACH
DR. ANTHONY S. BEUKAS

Photography
BARRY HOLZER

Theatre Staff

House Manager
TERRY NOVETSKY

Publicity
ARTHUR BROMBERG—supervisor
MICHAEL MANDELBAUM
BETSY MONDSHEIN
ALAN SCHWARTZ

Head Ushers
AVI AUERBACH
SALLY ROTH

Program
LANCE B. DUNOFF

Ticket Sales
STUART KURLAND—supervisor
HENRY NEWMAN—coordinator
TERRY NOVETSKY
STEVE COHEN
JEFF JACOBSON

Who's Who Behind the Scenes

DAVID GINSBURG this year's president of the Yeshiva College Dramatics Society is a resident of Albany, New York. He is majoring in Political Science and Economics. David has taken an active role in the technical aspects of YCDS. He has worked in such areas as construction, sound, and lighting, as well as being lighting supervisor for our last two productions. Last year, David was honored with initiation into the Alpha Psi Omega National Honor Society.

LANCE B. DUNOFF, a resident of Philadelphia, Pa., is this year's Administrative Vice President. Previously, Lance was musical coordinator of the hit production, *Roar of the Greasepaint*. For this production, he has assumed the herculean task of stage manager, and is trying to tie all the ends together. Lance is a double major in biology and pre-med looking forward to a career in optometry.

STEVEN LEICHMAN is currently the Vice President in charge of productions of YCDS. A YC sophomore, Steven has worked in the YCDS productions of *Indians* and *Greasepaint*. He has miraculously risen from the level of a common technician to that of "Da Boss" as his techies reverently call him. A math major, Steve is production supervisor of this production.

ARTHUR BROMBERG, secretary of YCDS, is a junior from Bloomfield, Ct. He first became involved in YCDS when he appeared as the mannequin "Tin Man" in *Greasepaint*. Arthur is also a member of the YU bowling team, and is on the typing staff of YCSC's Secretary-Treasurer's office. Arthur is a speech major.

JOHN KRUG is the dramatics society production consultant, and a former president of the society. A member of the dramatics society, John is the production assistant for the off-broadway show *The Fantasticks*, the lighting designer for the off-broadway show *US*, and works with his own company—KASCO Productions and Stage Lighting. John begins his eighth year with YCDS and will soon complete his Smicha as well as a master's degree.

Alpha PSI Omega Dramatics Honor Society

Chi Pi Chapter

Members: Seth Aronson '79, Gordon Berkeley '78, Menachem Carl '78, Steve Cohen '79, Jonathan Erlich '78, David Ginsburg '79, Jeff Jacobson '79, Henry Kamioner '78, Jerry Kaplan '79, David Katzenstein '79, Jon Kusnitz '80, Edward Levin '78, Steven Leichman '80, Howard Lichtenstein '78, Betsy Mondschein '80, Steven Passer '79, Sally Roth '78, Jay Solomont '78, Jonathan Stein '78, Sharon Weisel '80, Michael Yondorf '79, Robert Zeiger '78.

Honorary: Dr. Anthony S. Beukas, Assistant Professor of the Speech and Drama Department; Mr. Arnold Waldman '72, Alumnus; Dr. Irving Linn, Professor of the English Department; Dr. Abraham Tauber, Senior Professor and Chairman of the Speech and Drama Department; Dr. Laurel Keating, Assistant Professor and Chairman of the Speech and Drama Department; Ms. Shirley Lauro, Playwrite, and formerly an instructor of the Speech and Drama Department; Mrs. Rebecca Stearns, visiting instructor of the Speech and Drama Department; Dr. David Fleisher, Senior Professor and Chairman of the English Department; Mr. Sam Levine, Actor; Mr. Joel Siegel, Radio Commentator; Mr. Michael Andron, Alumnus; Mrs. Rea Tauber; Mr. Moe Septe, Broadway producer.

*We dedicate this production in loving memory of
Dr. Irving Linn—scholar, teacher, and friend.*

Dr. Linn joined Yeshiva College as an instructor in English in 1937, nine years after the establishment of the School. He built his career at the College, participating in its growth from just a few hundred students to its present enrollment of some 1000. For a number of years he had taught all Yeshiva College students in either freshman composition or the survey of English literature.

Dr. Linn earned the bachelor's degree at the City College of New York 1933, and the M.A. and the Ph.D. degree from New York University in 1934 and 1941, respectively. Between the years 1938-43 he was the faculty advisor and director of YCDS.

Widely known through his television work, he was coach of Yeshiva University's highly successful "College Bowl" team in 1963. From 1966-70 he conducted the WABC-TV series "This English Language of Ours."

Dr. Linn was a visiting professor of American literature at the Federal University of Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Su, Brazil, in 1968. He was listed in the 1974 edition of *Outstanding Educators of America*.

Dr. Linn is no longer with us, but the profundity of his involvement, dedication and love for Yeshiva University has forged for him a lasting monument in our hearts.

As a special tribute, we share with you the following, written by Dr. David Fleisher, Professor and Chairman, English Department, which so correctly describes the essence of Dr. Irving Linn.

The grievous loss of our colleague being so recent, it is painful to have to speak of him as one no longer with us. To do justice to his memory, I feel simply inadequate.

I can't help remembering, as all of us do, that it was to Irving Linn that we always turned for the delivery of such memorials, nor can we fail to remember how superbly he wrote them. His "minutes", as he termed them, were graceful evocations of the lives and personalities of our lost colleagues; they were usually touched with homely details; and above all, they had a healing quality.

Listening to these "minutes", I used often to wonder what gift in the writer made them what they were, and the explanation I arrived at long ago was they came out of something deep in Irving's temperament—his warm and empathic interest in people—all sorts of people, of whatever walk of life or country of origin, of whatever religion or culture. He was truly a civilized man. In Irving Linn's file (in Dean Bacon's office) there is a most unusual document and tribute—a letter from the Consul General of Brazil to President Belkin dated 1968 requesting Dr. Belkin's permission to make Dr. Linn available as a Visiting Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. "Professor Linn," writes the Consul, "is still very well remembered for the outstanding lectures (in American Literature) given by him in Brazil in 1958-1959"—that is to say, ten years earlier!

I am persuaded that the empathic quality of which I have spoken is the clue to so much in Irving's career: it characterized the public lectures of his I attended; it explained (to me) the specialist in medieval literature who in the 60's coached the Yeshiva College team in the television contest College Bowl, who lectured popularly over TV on literature and language. Above all, it explains to me his achievement as teacher at Yeshiva College. A generation ago, the student population at Yeshiva College was less native than it is today; there was a sizable number of students who were born abroad or who grew up in exclusively Yiddish-speaking homes. Irving Linn was their friend and mentor. He was the English Department's specialist in "remedial"; since I shared an office with him beginning 35 years ago, I had an opportunity to witness with what patience, with what sympathy, respect and understanding he helped them over the obstacles that barred their way to a college education. A number of these men have remained with us at Yeshiva or returned to us in important posts—they often speak to me of their debt to Professor Linn.

Irving Linn taught at Yeshiva for forty years, but he never ceased to study and to grow. In recent years, he became increasingly interested in linguistics; twice he was Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in this discipline. Finally, Professor Linn belonged to that group among us who, outside the classroom, bear and have borne through the years the burden of the faculty assignments on which so much of the strength and progress of the institution has depended. Yeshiva College had his entire loyalty; it was his home for forty years, and that home will be the emptier without him.



תהא נשמתו צרורה בצרור החיים

"May his soul be bound in the bond of eternal life"

Acknowledgments

The Yeshiva College Dramatics Society would like to extend a special thanks to the following for their cooperation and help:

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Mrs. Ceil Levinson
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Rabbi G. Finkelstein
Mrs. Alice Epstein
The Jewish Home and Hospital
for the Aged

The Department of Public Relations

Yeshiva College Student Council
Stern College for Women
Student Council

The Speech and Drama Department

Dr. Laurel Keating,
Associate Professor and Chairman

Dr. Anthony S. Beukas, *Assistant Professor*

Ms. Rebecca Sterns, *Instructor*

THE YESHIVA COLLEGE SPEECH AND DRAMA DEPARTMENT Course Listing

Course No.	Course
1	Speech and Communication
15	Voice and Diction
18	Advanced Public Speaking
21, 22	Great Speeches and Speakers
23, 24	Theatre Arts
26	Phonetics of American English
27	Parliamentary Practice and Procedure
28	The Art of Persuasion
30	Mass Media
31	Mass Media in Contemporary Society
33, 34	Speech Correction
35, 36	Film Techniques
37	Film Criticism
38	Visual Elements of the Theatre
43.1-4	Theatre Workshop
45	The Art of the Actor
46	The Techniques of the Director
47, 48	Playwriting Workshop
51, 52	Introduction to Linguistics
63	Honors