

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
Department of Speech and Dramatic Arts
presents

FIRES OF THE MIND

by
Robert Elliott

Directed by
Charles W. Whitman

October 31, November 1-2, 5-9, 12-15

Family Matinee November 12

8:00 p.m. Margetts Arena Theatre

Student admissions are subsidized by funding from
the Associated Students of Brigham Young University
through the Culture Office

Director
Assistant to the director

Charles W. Whitman
John Williams

Cast in order of appearance

Elder Barney Johnson
Elder Keith Poll
Elder Mark Markham
Elder Stephen Lucas
Elder Joseph Matthews
Brother T'ang Li Sun [Uncle Sam]
Sister Chou Li Ts'Wun [Holly]
Brother Ch'en Yun Ta

Rodger McDonald
Kent Smith
Steve Mackay
Keith Stepp
Max Mulliner
Paul Jan
Nadine Saito
Frank Maxwell

The action occurs over a three week period in the summer in Taipei, capital city of the Republic of China (Taiwan), and one of its suburbs, Lung Nan.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Act I

A missionary apartment in Lung Nan. Late afternoon

Act II

A chapel classroom in Taipei two weeks later. Early evening

Act III

The missionary apartment. One week later. Early morning

Epilog

The same. That evening

Director's Note

It is no longer an extraordinary event when an original play premieres at a Brigham Young University Theater because the original script is now a common thing in our season of plays. I think this speaks very highly of our theater department. I suspect that we do more original plays at BYU than any other university in the world. Because of the availability of theaters in which directors are willing to produce original scripts, the number of scripts that are being written at BYU and in this valley is amazing.

When I came to BYU ten years ago, I was assigned to direct an original script and had a difficult time finding one that I thought was stage-worthy. It was *No Greater Crown* by Martin C. Nalder which he wrote for his Masters Degree in Theater at the University of Utah, that I finally chose. Each year since then, there have been more and more original scripts written until now it is difficult to make a decision: which of the many worthy scripts should be produced.

I have found great inner satisfaction in working with original plays and have produced a variety since that first one: *A Day, a Night, and a Day*, a drama by Douglas Stewart; *And They Shall Be Gathered*, a drama by Martin Kelly; *Children of the Sun*, an Incan ritual by Biggs and Whitman; *The Apostate*, a drama by Orson Scott Card; *Across Five Summers*, a comedy by Card; *Stone Tables*, a musical by Card and Stoddard; *Giraffe Story*, a musical by Robert Stoddard; *Shepherd of the Lord*, a biblical drama by Beverly Warner; and *Nineveh*, a musical by Connie Walker and R. C. Christensen. Several of these plays in production have achieved a cathartic effect in the audience which is what Aristotle said was the purpose of tragedy. I don't believe, though, that any of them are, strictly speaking, "tragedy." *Fires of the Mind* might have been called "The Tragedy of Barney Johnson," for Robert Elliott has written a modern tragedy in which the protagonist's tragic flaw is pride and self doubt which eventually leads to Mormon tragedy: apostasy.

Fires of the Mind is B Y U 's original script entry in the American College Theatre Festival.

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1974-75 DRAMA SEASON

A Man For All Seasons

Dec. 4-7, 10-14 - Matinee Dec. 9

The Music Man

Jan. 17-18, 21-25 - Matinee Jan. 20

Twelfth Night

Feb. 13-15, 18-22, 25-28, and March 1 - Matinee Feb. 24

Papa Married A Mormon

March 20-21, 25-29, and April 1-4 - Matinee March 31

J.B.

March 5-8

The Trial Of Abou Ben Zoma

Jan. 30-31 and Feb. 4-8, 11-15 - Matinee Feb. 10