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## The Inkwell

Armstrong State College

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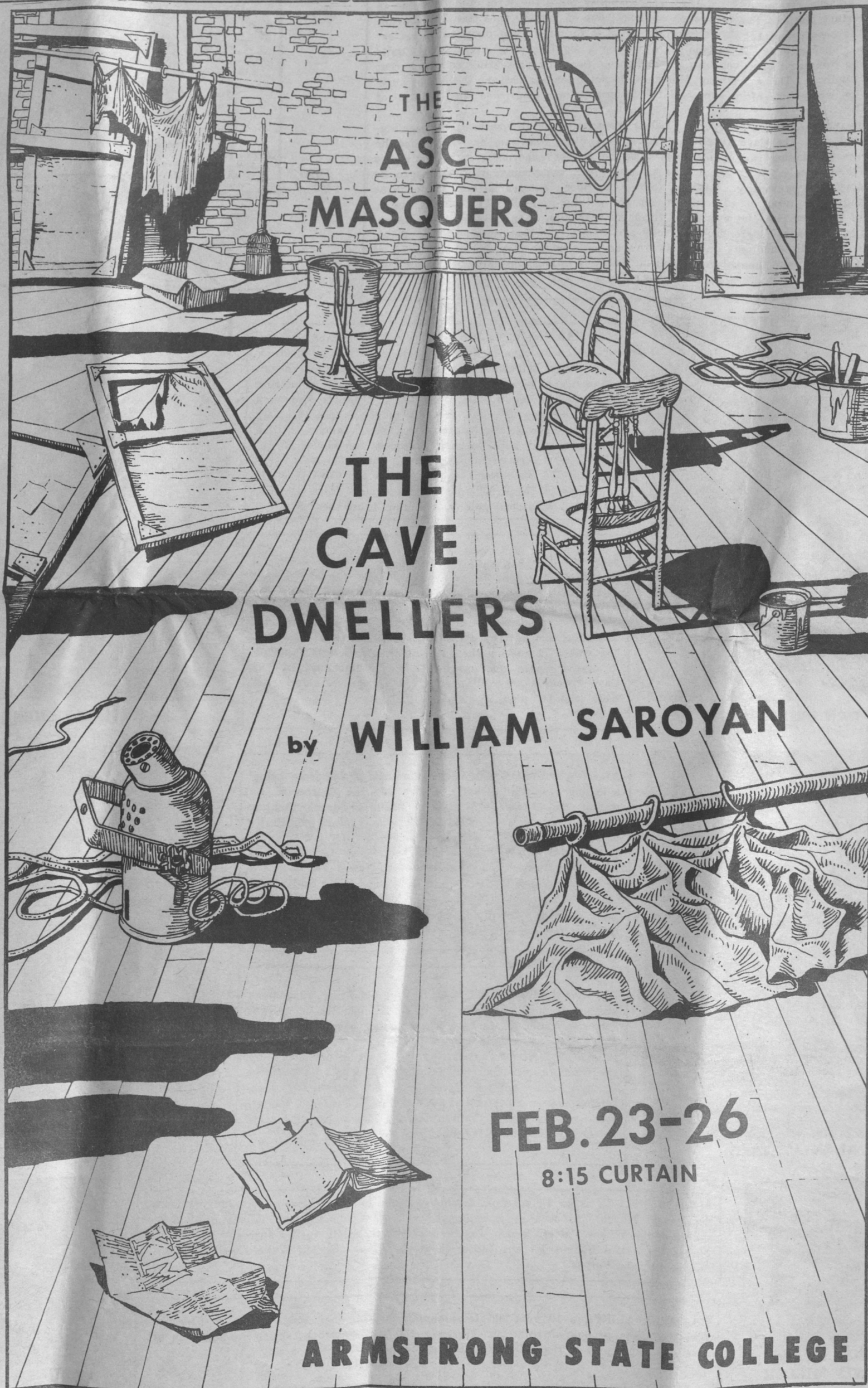
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# An INKWELL SPECIAL EDITION

Volume XXXVI, No. 16

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE INKWELL

Armstrong State College



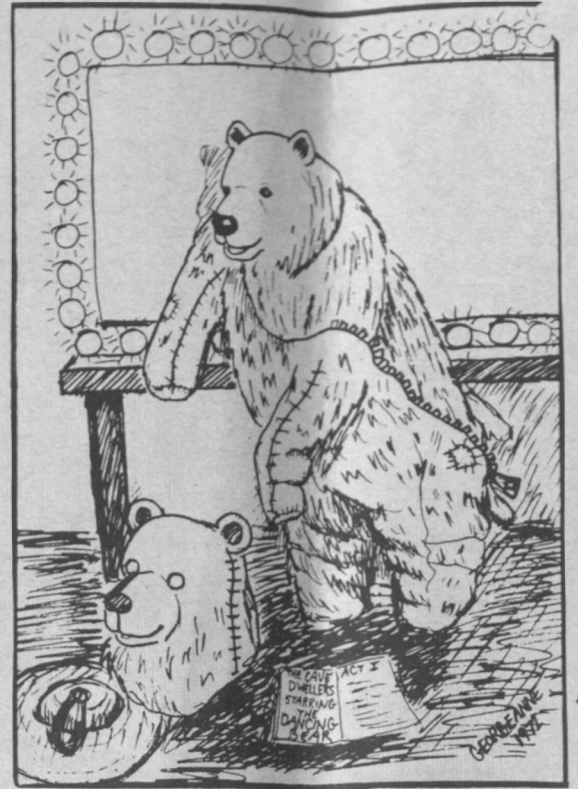


## A Statement From John Suchower

In their concern to offer unique opportunities for the study and enjoyment of drama, the Armstrong Masquers provide theatrical experiences that range from the classics to the current avant-garde. The audience finds plays of all countries, of all periods, of all styles, being performed, for the Armstrong Masquers' stage is truly international.

The public function of the Armstrong Masquers is not to fancy merely what plays their audience is inclined to like, ignoring the literary merit of such plays. It is different and has a broader responsibility. That responsibility takes the form of not avoiding to present important plays to the "average" audience, but of making important plays available to it. The concern of the Armstrong Masquers is to cause good plays to sell better: pleasing an audience with the possibility of seeing a significant or great play is quite different from bringing themselves into the audience's favor by presenting something that is "popular" with it. The Armstrong Masquers do not intend to present the kind of sure-hit pabulum on which it is often supposed the "average" man nourishes the liveliness of his mind.

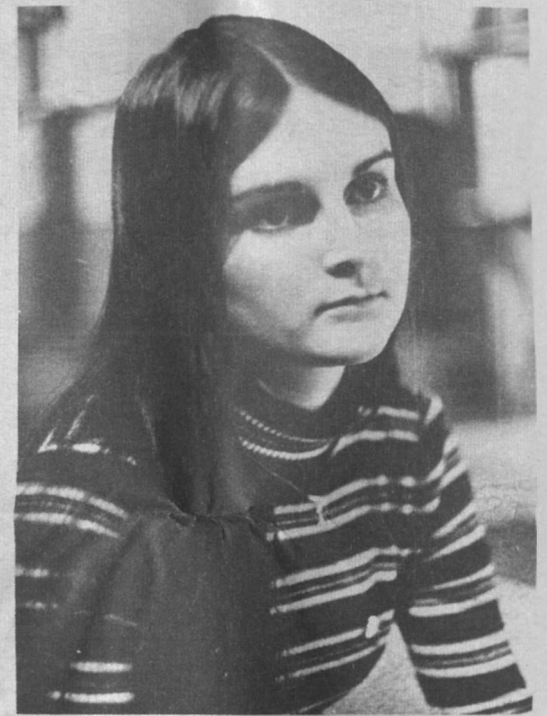
To argue about William Saroyan's (1908-) spontaneous, improvisational, and seemingly disconnected play, *The Cave Dwellers* (1957), is futile. One can like it because he can experience it; another can dislike it because he cannot experience it. The play is simple and it is complex; it is about nothing and about everything; it professes to be neither a comedy nor a tragedy. Saroyan follows no rules, imitates no one, but looks at the world and writes about it without concern for writing carefully. Yet Saroyan stands out as one of the important playwrights of the modern theatre. John Gassner wrote: "Saroyan's plays can be called 'surrealist' and they are, indeed, the best representation of this modern style in English-language drama. There's no logic in the play, but there's a lot of love, unpolluted innocence, unapologetic sentimentality, irrational optimism. In short, 'It's great to be alive!'"



DAN BROWNING

DAN BROWNING, the most experienced member of the cast, has been connected with all branches of the theater's media: radio, television, film, and stage. His career began at the age of six when he became a regular on "The Hop Along Cassidy Show." Dan is an ASC graduate and as a student teacher, he has directed plays at Savannah High. In 1968 he directed and produced a movie entitled "The Butterfly" with the ASC Masquers for Lovett Brothers. While at Armstrong he has been connected with every play that Mr. Suchower has produced. In *The Cave Dwellers* Dan portrays the King, an aging Vaudeville clown who has founded a theatrical colony in a run down theater.

WESLEY USHER, a 17 year old Early Admissions student from Jenkins, first began acting in the Little Theater's *Little Mary Sunshine*. While she was at Jenkins she served as the president of the drama department for two years. Through this department she was in *Pygmalion*, directed *Antigone*, and portrayed Cleopatra in *Caesar and Cleopatra*. She was a finalist in the 1971 Governor's Honors Program in drama where she was in the play *Rhinoceros*. In *The Cave Dwellers* she will portray the Queen, an elderly actress who is dying.



WESLEY USHER

ALAN ATKINSON, an ASC sophomore, is far from being a stranger to the theater. Portraying the Scarecrow, he was in *The Wizard of Oz* for a Miami children's theater. He has even been in an off off Broadway play, *San Francisco's Burning*. The difference between off and off off Broadway being "you don't get paid." For the Savannah Little Theatre he has been in *Sunday in New York*, *There's a Girl in My Soup*, *The Desperate Hours* and *Hello Dolly*. Last quarter Alan played Orestes in *The House of Atreus*. In *The Cave Dwellers* he will play the Duke, a prize fighter who has lost his title because of his great fear of hurting someone.

DEBORAH CLARQUIST is an 18 year old Early Admissions student from Windsor Forest High School. She is a newcomer to the stage. In high school she gave speeches and at Girl's State she played a lamp in a skit. "All I did was turn on and off." At present she is working as an art teacher at the Kicklighter School for Retarded Children. Very active in high school politics, Deborah is very interested in becoming active politically at Armstrong. She admits though, that her chief interest is in drama and then in art. She plays the Girl in *The Cave Dwellers*.



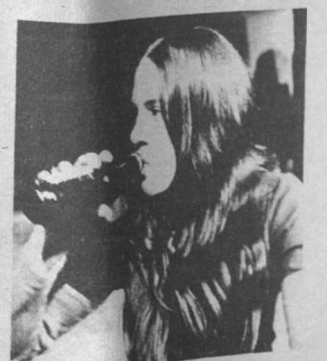
DEBORAH CLARQUIST

MARVIN MILLER is an 18 year old freshman from Jenkins. Through the Jenkins drama department Marvin has been in *Antigone*, *Caesar and Cleopatra*, and had the lead in *Romance of the Willow Pattern* which was broadcast over WJCL in the spring. This fall he played the Artful Dodger for the Little Theater's *Oliver*. In *The Cave Dwellers* Marvin will portray the Father.

CARMELA ALIFFI, a 19 year old freshman, is making her stage debut in *The Cave Dwellers*. She graduated from St. Vincent's and at Armstrong, she is majoring in art. Her role in the play is that of the Mother and the Woman with a dog.

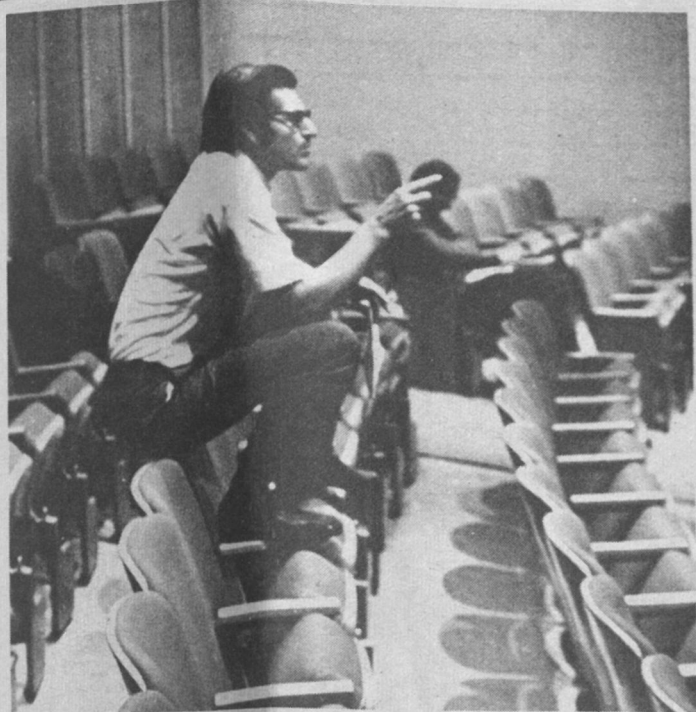


MARVIN MILLER



CARMELA ALIFFI





MR. SUCHOWER

## JOHN SUCHOWER: DIRECTOR, ACTOR, WRITER, & TEACHER

If one were to pick the force behind the Armstrong Masquers, it would have to be their director, Mr. John Suchower. His experience in the theater, however goes beyond that of directing. He is also an actor, a teacher, and a writer.

Mr. Suchower has acted in such plays as *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Reverend Angel* while in Connecticut. At the University of Detroit, Siena College, and Bellarmine College he has received teaching experience. He has written several plays. Four of which have been produced: *The Last Flood*, his favorite; *View From the Second Balcony*, which won an award in competition with Samuel Beckett; *While There's Life*; and *The Innocent American*. Mr. Suchower came to Armstrong in 1969 and in his entire career has directed 80 plays. He received his masters in drama from the University of Detroit. In the future he plans to put on one of his own plays, but as yet no plans have materialized.

Asked why he chose *The Cave Dwellers*, he stated two reasons:

1. "There is a rediscovery of Saroyan by the colleges and universities across the country. This is particularly true of his short stories. They contain a certain charm and magic. So I thought, 'Why not his plays as well?'"
2. "Saroyan's plays are regarded as a significant contribution to American drama."



**TOM TAYLOR**, a 22 year old sophomore, has been involved in the backstage and on-stage aspects of the theater for many years. He has worked in *Ah! Wilderness!*, *Death of a Salesman*, *The Lark*, *The Leaders*, *Lady Windemere's Fan*, and *The American Dream* which he also directed. The above he did for the Lake City Community College in Florida. Tom is a speech and drama major.



**CHRIS FREEDMAN**, a 28 year old senior, has been active theatrically for close to two years in the Savannah Little Theater. He is most accustomed to working backstage but this fall he played Mr. Brownlow in their production of *Oliver*. Chris was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and was raised in New York City. He is majoring in Art Education at Armstrong. He will portray Gorky, the dancing bear, in the Masquer's winter play.



**CHRIS UBELE** is an 18 year old ASC freshman. He has acted in skits in his Jr. English class at Jenkins High. He loves to write short stories and poetry in his spare time. Chris is majoring in Mental Health and wants to get a doctorate in Psychology. *The Cave Dwellers* is Chris' first play. He will portray the opponent boxer in the dream sequence and also the part of Jamie.



**BRAD HOLLOWAY**, a 21 year old senior, gained his theater experience through high school skits before coming to Armstrong. He has been very active in Armstrong dramatics. While here he has been in *The Amorous Flea*, *The Firebugs*, *Troilus and Cressida*, and most recently *The House of Atreus*. Brad is an English major and upon graduation plans to go to Europe and teach. In *The Cave Dwellers*, he will portray the Silent Boy and the Young Man.



**LIBBY ROBERTS** is an 18 year old ASC freshman. While in high school at Jenkins, she was active in their drama department and in her junior year she received a drama award. Libby has worked with the Little Theater in *A Perfect Analysis Given By a Parrot*. At Armstrong she is a member of the ASC stage band. Last quarter she was in *The House of Atreus* in which she played a Fury. In *The Cave Dwellers* she will portray the Young Queen.

## THE PLAY WHERE ALL ART FORMS MERGE

### THE DESIGN . . .

Mr. Ken McKinnell, Assistant Professor of Art at Armstrong, is responsible for the set design of *The Cave Dwellers*. His long experience in set designing has enabled Mr. McKinnell to create realistic

sets time after time for the Masquer's productions.

The plans for the set, according to Mr. McKinnell, are first worked out in detail on paper by himself and Mr. Suchower. "The designing takes a lot of imagination," McKinnell said, "but the construction involves most of the details that convey the desired illusion."

The set for *The Cave Dwellers* is very unique in that the setting is actually a theatre. Since the play takes place on an old, abandoned stage, Mr. McKinnell had to decide which parts of the Armstrong stage should be used unchanged for the setting, and how much actual scenery should be incorporated to project the desired effect.

When coming to Armstrong six years ago, he became the set director for Mr. Frank Chew, who was director of the Masquers before Mr. Suchower.

### THE MUSIC . . .

Incorporating the last branch of the arts, music, Dr. James Harry Persse, head of the ASC fine arts department, has composed an original musical score for *The Cave Dwellers*. Often called on to write interludes for the Masquers, Dr. Persse has written an unusual composition for the play's "dream sequence". A difficulty arose because "the dream sequence involves action and therefore I must work in conjunction with the blocking."

After obtaining his B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Georgia, he then received his masters in music and his doctorate in Musical Composition from Florida State University. Previously, Dr. Persse has written religious music and instrumentals. He also plays the piano and is an accomplished singer.

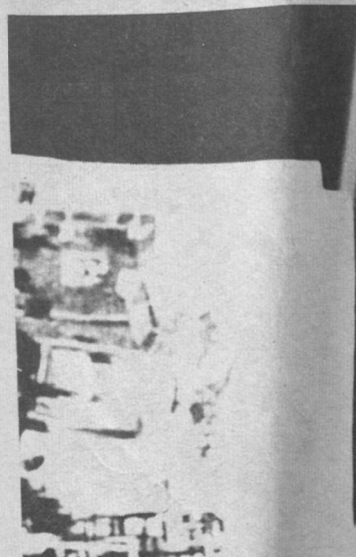


DR. PERSSE

In 1952 he began teaching at ASC and since then has been musically involved in many plays. He expressed a desire to act in this particular play. "The perfect part for me is Gorky, the bear, because no one would know who I was and I could clown around." Who knows? Maybe next quarter Dr. James Harry Persse will make his stage debut.



KEN McKINNEL



MR. McKINNEL AT WORK

Photos: DICK BAKER, ALAN ATKINSON and TOMMY PHILLIPS





1971-1972 Season  
 The Masquers of Armstrong State College  
 present  
**The Cave Dwellers**  
 A Play in Two Acts and Ten Scenes  
 by  
 William Saroyan  
 Directed by  
 John Suchower  
 Incidental Music Composed by  
 Harry Persse  
 Setting by  
 Ken McKinnell  
 Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Evenings  
 at 8:15  
 February 23, 24, 25, and 26, 1972  
 Jenkins Hall  
 Armstrong State College  
 Savannah, Georgia  
 Produced by special arrangement with  
 Samuel French, Inc.



CAST	
The Duke.....	Alan Atkinson
The Girl.....	Deborah Clarquist
The Queen.....	Wesley Usher
The King.....	Dan Browning
The Young Opponent.....	Chris Ubele
Young Man.....	Brad Holloway
Woman With Dog.....	Carmela Aliffi
Duffington .....	Himself
Young Queen.....	Libby Roberts
The Father.....	Marvin Miller
Gorky.....	Chris Fredeman
The Mother.....	Carmela Aliffi
The Silent Boy.....	Brad Holloway
Wrecking Crew Boss.....	Tom Taylor
Jamie.....	Chris Ubele
	Susan Whitfield, pianist

#### SYNOPSIS

The play, in two acts and ten scenes, happens within the space of a few days, on the stage of an old, abandoned theatre on the lower East Side of New York, in the midst of a slum-clearing project.

There will be a ten-minute intermission.



#### PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager.....	Dan Baisden
Set Construction.....	Charles Hankins, Merlynn Stanaland, Libby Roberts, Sherry Lamhut, Davida Shensky, Al Harris, Tom Taylor, Wyman Johnson, Deborah Clarquist, Brad Holloway, Tom Phillips, Marvin Miller, Frank Powell, Bruce An- derson, Alan Atkinson, Chris Suchower, Mitch Wilkes, Jo Ellen Kennedy
Lighting.....	Tom Phillips, Charles Hankins, Richard Cook
Makeup.....	Lane Fredeman
Properties.....	Melanie Kinsey
Costumes.....	Merlynn Stanaland
House Supervisor.....	Terry Dooley
	Sigma Kappa Sorority
Sound.....	Tom Phillips
Box Office.....	Mary Beam, Nicky King
Promotion.....	Frank Powell and The INKWELL
Poster.....	Ken McKinnell

#### ARMSTRONG MASQUERS COMING PRODUCTION UNCLE VANYA

by

Anton Chekhov

May 17, 18, 19, and 20, 1972 the 1972-73 Season of Plays  
 will be announced in the Spring Production program.

