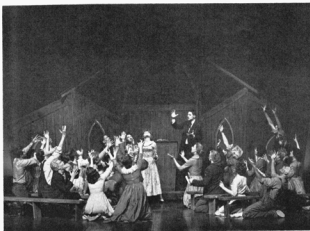




Dark of the Moon

The first major production in the University Theater, a part of the new Fine Arts Building, was "Dark of the Moon," the award-winning folk drama, which employed for the first time the full-scale staging, sound, and lighting resources of the 288-seat Theater. It opened March 17 for six public performances.

"Dark of the Moon" is a production requiring a large cast of performers on stage and perhaps even more persons working behind the scenes. This folk play with music is based on the eerie legend of Barbara Allen and the people of the Great Smokies.



Miss Dulcie Cready of Columbia was seen in the role of Barbara Allen, the mountain girl who unwittingly married a witch boy turned human by a conjure woman. Robert C. Choisser of Ewing, Ill. had the role of John, the witch boy. The two principals turned in sterling performances, as did many of the other student players in lesser roles.

The presentation was under the direction of Donovan Rhynsbarger, professor of speech and dramatic arts who is director of dramatics at the University. He had produced the play some years ago, but not

with the excellent facilities now available.

Lewis W. Stoerker, assistant professor of speech and dramatic arts, was technical director. His production crew built sets that were moved on and off the darkened stage nine times, in six to 15 seconds. One was a sturdy mountain ridge which the dancers could run upon. Other sets were sections of trees, cabins, general store and church; some were "blown" down from the fly space fifty feet above the floor.

"Dark of the Moon" was a colorful and impressive vehicle for the University Theater's major bow.