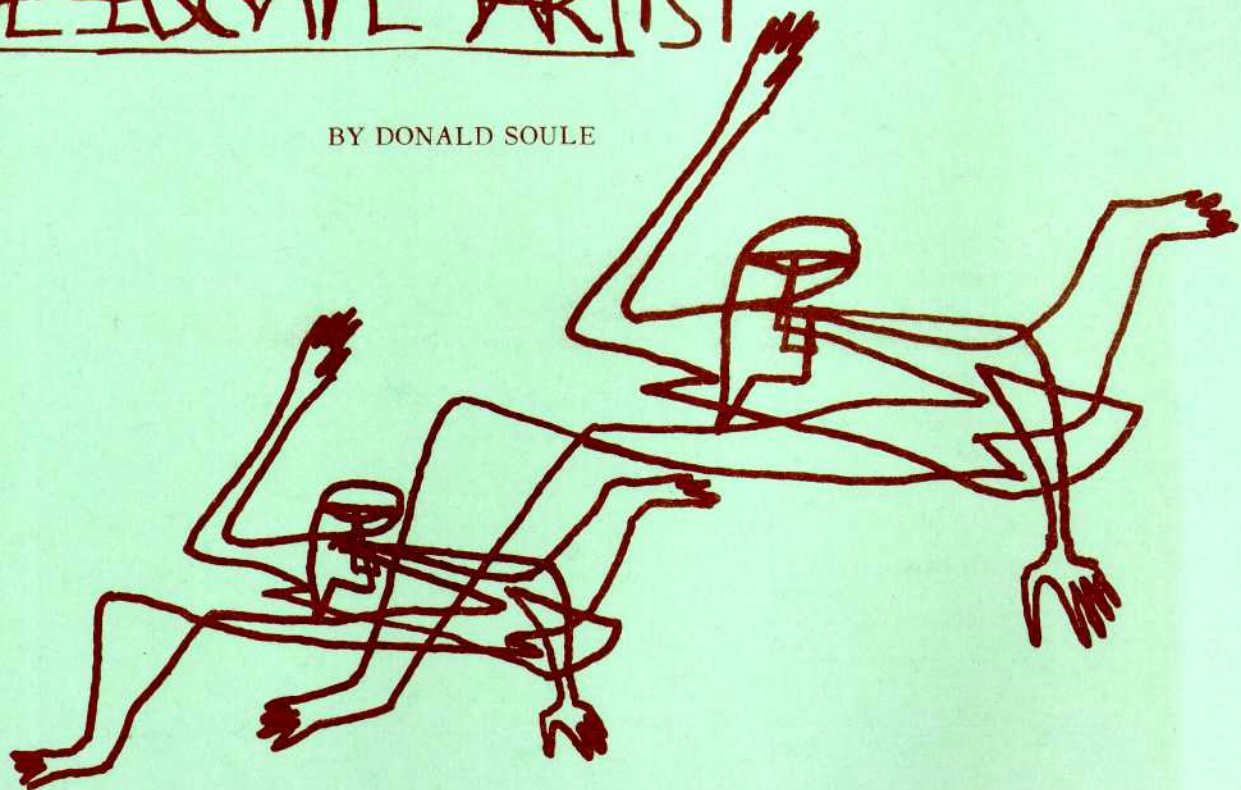


THE FREDERIC WOOD THEATRE PRESENTS

# THE ESCAPE ARTIST

BY DONALD SOULE



MARCH 27 - APRIL 4, 1964

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## ABOUT THE PLAY

In form, "The Escape Artist" is a farce; in content it is serious - even painful. It is not therefore an easy or a pleasant play. Like life, it can make you laugh, but it can also shock and hurt you.

Basically, the play is about a certain kind of man: he is sometimes called the amateur liberal. He is sincere, humble, obliging, eager, earnest - and ineffectual. When the going gets rough, he is an escape artist.

"The Escape Artist" creates a theatrical world which bears a meaningful - though not a literal - resemblance to the real world. Thus the dilemma Albert faces in the play is merely a heightened, theatricalized version of the dilemma we all face if we care about things: How can I, one person, do anything effective about all the suffering in the world?

Faced with this question, we can of course simply say, "It's none of my business." This is the animal answer.

As human beings, however, we have two alternatives - both dangerous. On the one hand, we can respond emotionally, as Albert does in the play, with a great burst of sympathy and horror. But all too often this results in our being paralyzed by pity and by our awareness of the sheer size of the problem. On the other hand, we can choose the rational solution and associate ourselves with some organization big enough and efficient enough to accomplish something. But here the danger is bureaucracy, the creation of an infernal machine so concerned with protecting and perpetuating itself that it forgets what its original purpose was, as Bordello and the Old Man have done in the play.

"The Escape Artist" doesn't pretend to offer a solution to this dilemma. It merely tries to present it and to suggest some of the difficulties it involves.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Frederic Wood Theatre wishes to express its appreciation for the assistance given to the production of "The Escape Artist" by the many friends of theatre both on and off the campus.

THE VANCOUVER SUN  
THE VANCOUVER PROVINCE  
VANCOUVER WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS  
ARTS COUNCIL NEWS  
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PURCHASING AND TRAFFIC

THE ESCAPE ARTIST

by

Donald Soule

CAST

in order of appearance

ALBERT SCHWEITZER AMBROSE . . . . . ROBERT CLOTHIER \*

DICK SULLY . . . . . EDWARD STIDDER \*

FUGENE I. BORDELLO . . . . . DEREK RALSTON \*

MISS TANCRED . . . . . DAPHNE GOLDRICK \*

THE MAN AT THE TELEVISION SET . . . . . DESMOND SMILEY

THE MAN IN THE CAGE . . . . . ALLAN DOBBY \*

THE WOMAN AT THE STOVE . . . . . RAE BROWN \*

FRANCIS E. XAVIER, JR. . . . . WALTER MARSH \*

THE OLD MAN . . . . . GUY PALMER

VOICES . . . . . PATRICIA DONOVAN, JACKIE FOORD,  
PATRICIA LUDWICK, JEANETTE MacARTHUR

*THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION*

DIRECTED BY THE AUTHOR

SCENERY AND LIGHTING DESIGNED BY ARISTIDES GAZETAS

COSTUMES BY JESSIE RICHARDSON

SOUND SCORE BY JOHN WEST CHOREOGRAPHY BY CAROLINE FRIEDSON

PRODUCTION

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER . . . . . NORMAN YOUNG

COSTUME EXECUTION . . . . . JESSIE RICHARDSON  
 GERALDINE RICHARDSON

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR . . . . . IAN PRATT

ASSISTANTS TO THE DIRECTOR . . . . . KARL WYLIE  
 NORA WILKINSON

PROPERTIES . . . . . JOYCE SOBELL  
 NORA WILKINSON  
 and members of the Frederic  
 Wood Theatre Committee

SOUND . . . . . RAE ACKERMAN

PAINTING ASSISTANTS . . . . . DON ELLIOTT  
 JACK DARCUS

STAGE CREW . . . . . JOHN MADILL  
 JOANNE CARLING  
 JANE CLEGG

BOX OFFICE . . . . . MARJORIE FORDHAM

USHERS . . . . . PEGGY SAYLE

PRODUCTION . . . . . DOROTHY SOMERSET  
 JESSIE RICHARDSON

Coming

THE FANTASTICKS.

BOOK AND LYRICS BY  
TOM JONES

MUSIC BY  
HARVEY SCHMIDT

An enchanting musical about a boy,  
a girl and a wall - 4 years in New  
York, 6 months in Toronto.

JUNE 12 - JULY 4