

## GUILD SEASON

The two remaining productions on the Theatre Guild's regular season are the eighteenth century ballad-opera, "The Beggar's Opera," and a group of original one-act plays.

John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera," which is being produced in cooperation with the Music Department, has the distinction of being one of the greatest theatrical successes of the eighteenth century. After the first presentation in 1728, its popularity continued well into the nineteenth century; and in 1920, when revived in London, it ran for two years, with the company later touring the United States. "The Beggar's Opera" has been frequently subjected to "modernization" in the films and on the stage; probably most recently on Broadway last year with a score by Kurt Weill. Benjamin Britten, the composer of "Peter Grimes," is said to be currently engaged in a rescoring of the original music.

The initial success of "The Beggar's Opera" was partially due to its being a parody of the Italian opera then in vogue in London under the influence of Handel, and partially due to its satirizing the prominent political figures of the day. The continued popularity of the piece, however, has rested upon the brilliant wit of the lines and the charm of the music. "The Beggar's Opera" was the first of the ballad-operas which utilized the tunes of popular songs, the lyrics being rewritten to suit the action of the play. So popular did this form become that after the appearance of "The Beggar's Opera" the Italian opera never regained its former popularity in England. This opera is, in fact, the genesis of the modern musical comedy.

The opening performance of "The Beggar's Opera," which will be the first presentation of the work in the Islands, is scheduled for April 29th.

The program of original one-act plays is a development from last spring's very successful playwriting contest, and the resulting production of a program of two original and two standard one-act plays. This year the Guild has added a Territorial Playwriting Contest to last year's Student Playwriting Contest. It is hoped that enough interesting plays will be submitted to make possible the production, in April or May, of a full program of new plays.

In addition to thus completing its regular season of six productions, the Guild plans to do a special production at the end of the academic year. The play, one of the finest American works of the last twenty-five years, is Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie." Just released to amateurs, "The Glass Menagerie" won the Critics Award in 1945. "Theater Arts" spoke of it as "a minor miracle," the "World-Telegram" as "make-believe so real it tears your heart out," and the "Mirror" as "an absorbing story [which] . . . restores faith in and lends distinction to the theatre." A play of distinction and imagination, "The Glass Menagerie" will be done about examination time.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII THEATRE GUILD

and

## THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY MEN'S CLUB

present

# SOO YONG

in a program of

## MONODRAMAS



March 31, April 1, 2, and 3

Farrington Hall

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII THEATRE GUILD

and

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY MEN'S CLUB

present

## SOO YONG

in

### OUT FROM THE INNER APARTMENTS

An original monodrama depicting the  
emancipation of Chinese women

#### SCENE 1

Time: Summer of 1911, just before the Republican Revolution  
Place: The Tang home in Canton  
Character: CHING JOY, the eldest daughter of the Tang family

#### SCENE 2

Time: May, 1919  
Place: The home into which CHING JOY has married  
Character: PERSONAL MAID to CHING JOY

#### SCENE 3

Time: December, 1927  
Place: The Tang home in Canton  
Character: ALICE CHING MEI, youngest daughter of the Tang family

#### SCENE 4

Time: A few minutes after Scene 3  
Place: The Tang home in Canton  
Character: Great Grandmother Tang, or "PO-PO"

#### SCENE 5

Time: Today  
Place: A farmhouse outside of Hankow  
Character: A FARM WOMAN

#### SCENE 6

Time: Today  
Place: The Wu home in Canton  
Character: ALICE WU, M.D. (Nee, Alice Ching Mei Tang)

INTERMISSION

## ORIGINAL SKETCHES

### 1. MR. LOO'S LAST DANCE

#### SCENE 1

Time: Today  
Place: The Loo home in Shanghai  
Character: MADAME LOO

#### SCENE 2

Time: Shortly after Scene 1  
Place: The Paradise Night Club  
Character: MISS NARCISSUS

### 2. SNOW IN JUNE



## TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Hawaii's own Soo Yong, Chinese-American stage and screen star who has performed extensively on the mainland and in Canada, is the author of tonight's monodramas.

Soo Yong is the stage name of the former Ah Hee Young, who in real life is Mrs. C. K. Huang. Miss Yong was born on Maui and graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1925 with a major in education. While here, she was active in campus activities, being a member of Theta Alpha Phi, Adelphai Club, Hawaii Quill, "Ka Leo," "Ka Palapala," and several athletic clubs. She starred in campus productions of "The Yellow Jacket," "Milestones," and "The Faithful." After graduation, she went to Columbia for her master's degree, then returned to Hawaii to teach on Kauai for a year. Subsequently, she began work on a Ph.D. at the University of Southern California. There she was discovered by Hollywood, which gave her two exacting roles in "The Good Earth." Her work won her immediate recognition as an actress.

During the war years Miss Yong volunteered her services for the cause of China relief, staging monodramas in practically every part of the mainland.

Miss Yong has been included this year in "Who's Who in America."