

## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

### And All of Them Different

#### SCENE I.

**Narrator:** Our scene opens on a warm September evening, shortly after the Fall term begins. We ask your indulgence in imagining our set and most of the scenery. The first scene takes place on the front steps of the South Building of the Department of Agriculture about 6:00 P.M.

**REPORTER TOM C. ENTERS STAGE LEFT, GLANCES AT TWO MEN SITTING STAGE R. HESITATES, TURNS TOWARD DOOR UP CENTER. TWO GIRLS ENTER STAGE R. CROSS IN FRONT OF SEATED MEN TOWARD UP CENTER DOOR. CHATTERING ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES, "I didn't have time to eat tonight, did you?" Etc.**

**Reporter:** (Interrupting girls at center stage) Say Miss, Is this where they have classes for the USDA Graduate School?

**1st Girl:** Yes.

**Reporter:** I'm a reporter from the morning paper, and my editor sent me down to look around for feature story material. Are you girls taking courses?

**1st Girl:** Yes, I'm taking Pencil Sketching and Water Color Painting.

**Reporter:** You mean they teach ART here?

**2nd Girl:** Well, some art courses -- they teach just about everything. You ought to stop in the office and get a catalog.

**Reporter:** Would you mind telling me why you are taking sketching?

**1st Girl:** Well, my boss gets out a newsletter to the staff every week, and he's always asking me to do some little sketch for it. I just decided I might as well learn to do it right.

**3rd Girl:** Don't let her kid you -- she's taking a course for the same reason we are -- it's something to do in the evenings. A girl can get pretty lonely in this town at night.

**2nd Man:** Don't mind, Joe. We ride in together every Tuesday night, and he's grumpy even when he doesn't have a test coming up. He'd rather be out in his sailboat with his boy these nice evenings. Maybe I can help you -- I'm a public speaking student, and all I have to do tonight is listen.

**Reporter:** Oh, learning how to win friends and influence people, eh?

**2nd Man:** Well, not exactly, but I sure wish I'd taken the course when I was in College. I nearly have a nervous collapse every time I have to make a speech.

**Reporter:** Why are you taking it if it is such agony?

**2nd Man:** Well, I have just been promoted to a new position where I have to brief regional meetings all over the country, and I think I need to be a better speaker to do it effectively. I've already had to miss a class because of a trip though, and I don't know whether I'll be able to keep up.

**Reporter:** Well, I wish you luck. Think I'd better get down to the office and pick up whatever literature there is. Which way is it?

**2nd Man:** It's down the hall to the left - you'll see a sign. (He indicates with a gesture. Reporter departs, he looks at watch.) Come on, Joe, it's time for class. (They exit center, following Reporter).

## SCENE II.

**Narrator:** Our second scene is in the hall just inside the door. Our Reporter is studying the bulletin board to your right. (Reporter studies b.b. stage L. enters two professors Stage R and cross up L behind Reporter as they talk)

**1st Prof:** You know, I'm glad this class is going again. I miss it in the summer. I get a kick out of teaching.

**Reporter:** Taking a course would probably be a good idea. I always thought I'd like to learn more about electronics.

**Clerk:** We have a course in Transistor Electronics. (She shows him the book.)

**Reporter:** (Leafing through the book, gives a soft whistle) You mean you really have students here who can understand this stuff?

**Clerk 1:** Of course, but we have less advanced courses too - here's one on Electronic Theory, and one on Practical Radio and Television.

**Reporter:** (Leafing through book on theory) Well, looks like I'd need more Math than I have before I'd go into this. I'd better check the catalog.

**Clerk 1:** You can pick up one right down the hall in the office.

**Reporter:** Thanks. (Reporter moves down R to long desk where Clerk 2 and Secretary are working)

**Clerk 2:** May I help you?

**Reporter:** I wonder if I might talk to your director - Dr. Holden, is it? I'm Tom Cayhill from the Morning Paper, and we think we might like to do a feature story on the Graduate School.

**Clerk 2:** One moment, please. (Flustered she goes to secretary for a whispered conference - secretary goes to Holden's office for another and returns)

**Secretary:** Step this way, Mr. Cayhill - Dr. Holden will be happy to see you. (She holds open imaginary door while he passes in).

Secretary exits, stage R. (During the ensuing, clerk continues to work unobtrusively behind counter.)

**Dr. H.:** How do you do, Mr. Cayhill, What can I do for you?

**Reporter:** Well, I'd like to talk to you about the Graduate School. Frankly, the first question I have is, why? Why should there be a school in the Department of Agriculture?

4th Man: I'm not sure - what would you suggest?

Sec.: Have you read the catalog (she extends one to him from pile on counter).

4th Man: (Taking it) Yes, I browsed through it,

Sec.: Well, what area interested you?

4th Man: I found a lot of courses. I even asked my boss which course he thought would help me improve myself.

Sec: What did he recommend?

4th Man: He said just being able to read and understand these course descriptions would be an education, but I'll have another try at it. (He sits in chair down R. and begins studying catalog - secretary shaking head returns to calling.)

(Interest shifts back to Holden's office as other continue to pantomime calls and study.)

(Reporter and Holden rising)

Reporter: Thank you for filling me in. If my editor likes this idea, we may want to send a photographer down tomorrow evening.

Dr. H.: That would be fine.

Reporter: (Moving out stage L) So long.

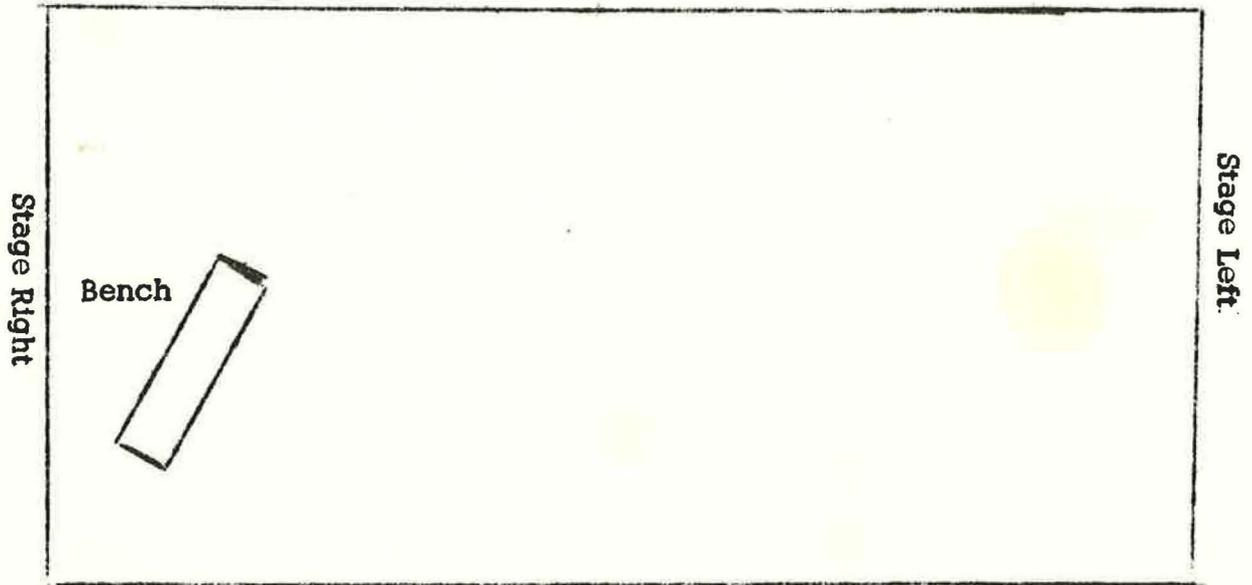
Dr. H.: Goodnight.

Holden, Secretary, Clerk and 4th Man continue to work unobtrusively as action shifts to center stage in front of bookstore. 1st Girl enters from Stage L, cross, meets Reporter Center-

1st Girl: Oh, are you still here? Did you find out what you wanted to know?

Stage - Scene I

Up Stage



Stage - Scene II

Up Stage

