

# Celebrated JRD Names Favorite Shows; Fondly Remembers First Acting Motivation

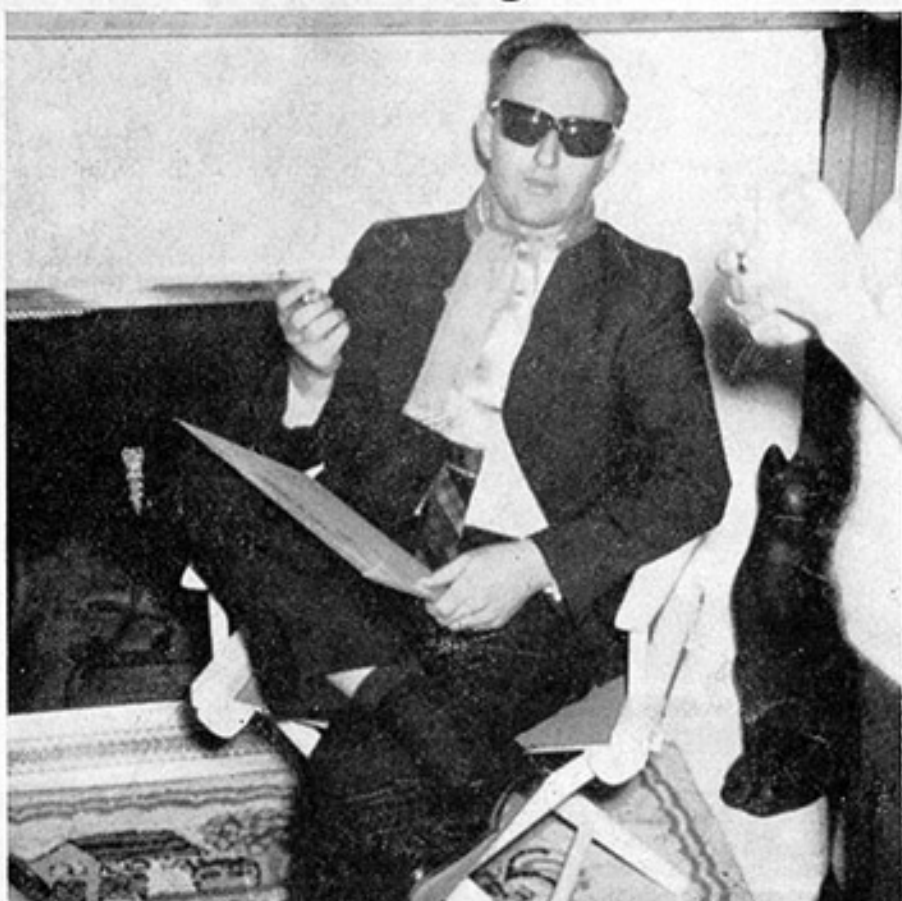
"Best memories? After four and one half years of directing plays at Sequoia, I have to say that curtain calls stick out most brightly in my mind," Mr. Doherty attested. "I get a certain sort of satisfaction, but not a self satisfaction, out of watching the kids in the cast take the bows and drink in the applause that they've worked six weeks to earn."

Any drama camp follower at Sequoia will tell you that JRD (otherwise known as John Ray Doherty, English teacher and drama director) is the energy and binding tie behind the Sequoia Players, who have by now a reputation for being the best drama group in the district. "I won't think of just one or two outstanding actors or singers, when someone mentions the Sequoia Players. It's the whole group I'm going to remember for the work they did as a team," declared Mr. Doherty.

Listing unforgettable shows, Mr. D mentioned Arsenic and Old Lace and The Heiress, for being his best plays, Bye Bye Birdie, because it was his first musical and so well received, and Brigadoon, on accounta' it got two standing ovations. He also mentioned this year's faculty musical, The Boyfriend, as being the most unusual show he's ever directed. "The all teacher cast wasn't the most skillful troupe of performers assembled, but they were hard workers when adequately supplied with coffee," reminisced the great one.

In The Boyfriend, Mr. Doherty didn't appear on stage, but conducted the orchestra from the pit. "One of my biggest dissappointments will always be that Mr. Smith never asked me to guest conduct at one of his concerts. I'm not hinting now. It's just that . . . well, gee," said he sobbingly.

At least once before the end of



every production, Mr. Doherty delivers one of his famous "this is the worst show I have ever seen, I'm selling my stock, and I wouldn't even invite my mother to this fiasco" speeches. On one occasion, while delivering another of his breath taking lectures, he was sitting on a very tall chair (not to be confused with a high chair) and reading music from a music stand. As he became more involved with his oration, Mr. D. began to pound his fist fiercely on the music stand. The stand, however, failed to support him, and our beloved director performed what is commonly called a stage fall, again demonstrating his versatility. While resting face down on the stage, Mr. Doherty was still shouting all sorts of descriptive expressions and pounding his fist in his hand, but he obviously was no longer in a position to press the advantage.

JRD was first inspired towards drama when he started acting in shows at the University of San Francisco, but he recalls being in several productions in high school. "I don't remember exactly what brought me into drama in high school, but I think the fact that I got out of a class to rehearse had some bearing on my decision," he said blushing.

Mr. Doherty flatly denied that he had planned to stop directing after the class of 1965 graduated this year. "Oh, I think I have a few good years left," he exclaimed assuredly (limping slightly on his good leg). "And then I thought I'd go into teaching . . . English maybe?"