

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

like many other plays labeled "comedies," THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH does not at first seem overly "funny" as one expects a comic work to be, nor does its medley of patently unreal elements support its author's statement that his purpose is to capture the reality of daily human life. but thornton wilder has not attempted in this play to write the kind of comedy that relies on farcical action, or comic situations; rather, he has tried to put into dramatic form a whole philosophical viewpoint -- an affirmation of man's ability to endure any change, and a testament to the basic joyousness of his life.

in essence, the play's subject is a big one -- nothing less than the whole history of the human race. it uses the circular or cyclic plot so frequently found in comedy, in which nothing is resolved or ended, but in which a pattern is observed and a vision of life is imparted which will sustain its characters beyond the ending of the play. in wilder's drama, this vision provides the reassurance that, having managed to survive such natural disasters as the ice age and the flood, and such man-made holocausts as war, the human race will very likely continue to muddle through, snatching here and there from its own ruins such remnants of civilization as the multiplication table, the wheel, and the printed book. if not exactly "comic" in the ordinary sense, THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH thus embodies the optimistic view that man's nature contains more good than evil, that man can look to his future with hope, that some happy moments are attainable, though not without struggle. it is, then, a modern illustration of the ancient dionysian tribute to the pervasive life-force, the vital essence that celebrates continuity as man's goal and finds renewal even amid destruction.

in THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH, wilder has shown the power of the theatre to "raise the exhibited individual action into the realm of idea and type and universal." at this level the play certainly is a true comedy, one of the most affirmative plays in modern drama, its hopeful message as pertinent today as it was when it won the pulitzer prize in the dark days of world war ii.

THEATRE

presents

The SKIN of Our TEETH



Thornton Wilder's
HILARIOUS COMEDY

Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2, 1974

McNair Auditorium

8:00 p.m.

thornton wilder's
THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

announcer	barry cameron
sabina	devonne greer
mrs. antrobus	susan kaney
dinosaur	steve hunt
mammoth	susan robertson
telegraph man	david weaver
gladys	darlene martin
henry	tom govus
mr. antrobus	tom schuster
doctor	ricky pate
professor	mike woodall
judge	pat sowell
miss m. muse	kay ward
miss e. muse	peaches drew
broadcast official	bryan hill
fortune teller	amy weaver
conveener	eddie glass

scene synopsis

act i

living room of antrobus' home
 during the ice age

10 minute intermission

act ii

myrtle beach approximately 2,000 b.c.

10 minute intermission

act iii

living room of antrobus' home at the
 end of the war to end all wars

the college theatre requests that no photographs be taken
 during the performance.

production staff

director	d. c. sanderson
assistant director	peaches drew
technical director & scenic designer	d. s. campbell
costume designer	e. a. sanderson
lighting control	jay richardson
sound control	ronnie mcdowell
wardrobe mistress	susan robertson
stage carpenters	jack elliot, gary hard
set construction	george branstiter, steve derrick, gary hard, jim mcmillan, susan robertson, glenn tarte, jack elliot, mary jo taylor, david weaver, james mcdowell, tom govus
costume construction	judy yarborough, amy weaver, susan robertson, kay ward
publicity	j. robert ward, frank crow, susan kaney

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH

is presented

by special arrangement with

samuel french, inc.

25 west 45th st.

new york, n. y. 10036