

## LIGHTS CONTRIBUTE THRILL TO PLAYLET

Electricity Burns Out at Yacht Club During "Assorted Spirits" Performance.

### AUTHOR CALMS AUDIENCE

Audience Adds \$200 to Proceeds of Preceding Night's Production for Baby Welfare Fund.

Realism to the limit with the ultra-thrill of the unexpected was staged for the society folk who witnessed the performance of the two-act farce by the Elizabethan Dramatic club at the White Bear Yacht club at Dellwood last night.

At the very moment when the ghost was walking in the first of "Assorted Spirits," the annual vehicle of the youthful amateur actors of St. Paul, the light fuses suddenly burned out with a loud explosion and the room was plunged into darkness.

#### Playwright to Rescue.

There is likely to be a "creepy" feeling attendant on any play based on the antics of spirits and when the accident occurred, the surprised shrieks of the women in the audience almost started a small panic. Scott Fitzgerald, the 17-year-old playwright, proved equal to the situation however and leaping to the edge of the stage quieted the audience with an improvised monologue. The orchestra resumed playing, the youthful playwright actor held the attention of the 200 men and women and in a few minutes the electrician had repaired the lights and the play proceeded.

#### Fourth of Boy's Plays.

"Assorted Spirits" is the fourth play Scott Fitzgerald, a second year Princeton student and son of Edward Fitzgerald, St. Paul broker, has written. Each of the preceding ones presented by the Elizabethan Dramatic club in the last three years proved a great success and this was no exception.

#### Overflow Performance.

The performance last night was staged because on the preceding night at the Y. W. C. A. auditorium the house was crowded to the doors and many had to be turned away.

No admission was charged as on the first night when the play was given to raise funds for the Baby Welfare league.

Between the two acts, J. P. Elmer, following a humorous impromptu monologue, asked for contributions and about \$200 was given. The opening night the receipts were \$300.

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10 September 1914, p. 12

## CHARITY PLAY A SUCCESS

Nearly \$300 Realized for Baby Welfare Association.

The charity play, "Assorted Spirits," given by the Elizabethan Dramatic club at the Y. W. C. A. Tuesday night for the benefit of the Baby Welfare association, was a complete success, nearly \$300 being realized.

Members of the cast included children of prominent St. Paul families. The play was written by Scott Fitzgerald, 17 years old.

Among those who performed their parts well Tuesday night are Master Fitzgerald; Betty Mudge, Gustave Schurmeier, Katherine Schulze, Elenore Alair, James Armstrong, John Mitchell, Margaret Armstrong, MacNeil Seymour and Alice Lyon.

Miss Elizabeth Magoffin directed the young players.

The play will be repeated tonight at the White Bear Yacht club, taking the place of the regular Wednesday night dance.

St. Paul Daily News  
9 September 1914, p. 8.

## PLAY NETS \$300 FOR BABY WELFARE FUND

"Assorted Spirit" Scores Hit Before Capacity Audience at Y. W. C. A. Auditorium.

The Elizabethan Dramatic club, composed of children of prominent St. Paul families, last night presented their fourth annual play, "Assorted Spirits," before a capacity house at the Y. W. C. A. auditorium. Nearly \$300 was netted for the Baby Welfare league.

Scott Fitzgerald, the 17-year-old playwright, whose other three sketches, "A Regular Fix," "Captured Phantoms," and the "Coward" have been presented in previous years by the Elizabethans, turned out a roaring farce and is clever throughout.

#### Takes Prominent Part.

He also took a prominent part in the cast and his comedy work as Peter Weatherby, an old man, was good.

"Assorted Spirits" tells the story of the attempts of one Josephus Hendrix to depreciate in value a house which he was about to buy, by making the owners believe it is haunted.

A pretty love theme between two young couples runs through the sketch, also terminating happily.

#### Speaks Dialect Well.

Betty Mudge, as Hulda, the Swedish housemaid, handled the dialect well and scored a hit with the audience.

The part of William Chapman, the role of hero, was well suited to Gustave Schurmeier.

Katherine Schulze and Elenore Alair, in the roles of Clara King and Cecile Wetherby made pretty leading ladies.

#### Others Appear to Advantage.

James Armstrong as Dickie Wetherby, a sickly youth; John Mitchell as Josephus Hendrix, the designing purchaser of the house; Margaret Armstrong as Miss Spigot, an elderly spinster; MacNeil Seymour as O'Flanagan, a policeman, and Alice Lyon as Madame Zada, handled their parts better than amateurs usually do.

The production was given without a hitch. Miss Elizabeth Magoffin was director.

Previous to the play, Miss Schulze and Mayall Brunner of Castle House gave their interpretation of the "Maxixe."

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9 September 1914, p. 5

## "ASSORTED SPIRITS" PLAYED FOR CHARITY

Two Hundred Dollars More Raised at White Bear Yacht Club.

"Assorted Spirits," played by the Elizabethan Dramatic club, was given its second public presentation at the White Bear Yacht club Wednesday night. The first performance was given at the Y. W. C. A. Tuesday and the \$300 receipts turned over to the Baby Welfare association. No admission was charged Wednesday night, but at the close of the play J. P. Elmer asked for contributions, and about \$200 additional was raised for the association.

During the progress of the play the electric lights burned out with an explosion and a near-panic followed. Scott Fitzgerald, 17-year-old playwright, calmed the audience in a neat impromptu speech and held its attention until the lights were repaired.

St. Paul Daily News  
10 September 1914, p. 5.