Langley Satisfied With Translation

By FRED BINKLEY
Lariat Staff Writer

"Thoroughly delightful, thoroughly delightful. I'm most satisfied with this business."

These were the words of Noel Langley after viewing a performance of his translation of Ibsen's "Hedda Gabler" Thursday night at the Baylor Theater.

"It's certainly a pleasure not to see lazy acting. The overall concentration was tremendous," he said.

"I've never seen my translation performed before, but after tonight's performance I feel that I want to do four or five more translations (of Ibsen) and give them to her (Dr. Hannah) to do," Langley said.

"With Ibsen you'll find that he isn't all doom and death and destruction. He is ironic and this is the first time (Thursday's performance) that I've seen it proven.

"Every laugh that you can get legitimately is tremendous. Ibsen balanced the tragic against the humor—sort of like a ping-pong match.

NOEL LANGLEY
'Hedda Gabler' Translator

"He meant to shock you and after he had succeeded, he meant for you to laugh," said Langley.

"We've (referring to the cast and director) brought it above the point where the previous translations were trying to kill it," he said.

Addressing the cast after the performance, the British playwright said one of the most satisfying things to a "cynical old gentleman" was a play with drive and real hard sweat.

"And I hope that you never stop doing this," he said.

"I'm most grateful to you for doing what I'm trying to do and make the play articulate.

"Teamwork to a writer is the most important thing. Anytime with a play that the overall thing isn't there it just won't work—and there was teamwork here tonight.

"I think that Ibsen would take your interpretation as a high compliment," Langley said.

Dramatists See Theater On Its Way to Excitement

Noel Langley, eminent British playwright, and author of the translation of "Hedda Gabler" being used in the Baylor Theater production of Ibsen's drama, and Alexander Reeve, of the Department of Drama at Howard Payne College, spoke at the afternoon workshop at 2 p.m. Thursday in Studio One of the Baylor Theater.

"The theater is obviously on the way with something exciting. The director is no longer a superman, mood lighting isn't so necessary, the technician no longer so technical—the emphasis is coming to the actor," he said.

"I have an intense belief and admiration for people who are trying to do with the classics what you people here are doing," Langley said.

The thing that one just found in the theater was the tremendous aristocracy which you don't find any more—the Barrymores—they've vanished and if we don't do something to produce people to replace them we'll have an inarticulate mess in 20 years time," he said.

"The one hope is the thing you people are doing—the only articulate thing in the theater. Unless people start doing the classics, building the repertory—work out what you believe in and stick to it, don't let anyone talk you out of it," Langley said.

Fred Binkley

Author of 'Hedda' Will Speak Today

Noel Langley, author of the adaptation of "Hedda Gabler" used by the Baylor Theater, will speak at 2 p.m. Thursday in Studio One to lecture for the afternoon workshop.

The eminent British playwright will attend the performance of "Hedda" at 8 p.m. Thursday.

BAYLOR THEATER presents

HEDDA GABLER
by
HENRIK IBSEN
Feb. 22-27 8:00 p.m.
PL 3-4511 Ext. 234