

**"SYMPHONIE
PASTORALE"**

Manchester Guardian 27 Nov. 50

LONDON, FRIDAY.

The little Lindsey Theatre is the right stage for a play of the kind Millicent George has extracted from Gide's novel "Symphonie Pastorale." That fine, slim fiction told with deliberate coolness and analytical delicacy a terrible case of the conscience, of a Swiss pastor who adopts a blind wail, teaches her the beauty of life and then finds that he has conceived for her an adulterous passion which threatens to wreck all his domestic happiness. The girl, recovering her sight, has a dilemma hardly less terrible to deal with.

To retell such a story in the completely different terms of the stage is a bold undertaking: an example of the difficulties is the effort here made to condense into a few conversational exchanges the whole of the pastor's methods of teaching the child the meaning of the outer world. But though the stage piece lacks the authority of the book it avoids the obvious pitfalls, and a serious study emerges. Less happy is the translation, which reeks of alien forms. The French say "I do not judge you," but the English equivalent of this is "I'm not blaming you"; and when a French wife says "C'est infect" she does not mean "it's an infection." And so on.

Perhaps among the game performers of this valiant little production Doris Hare as the wife and Lyndon Brook as the son come nearer the heart of the matter than the protagonists, though Patricia Gilder showed marked talent.

P. H.-W.

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Le contrat d'adaptation donné
à Millicent George date de
mars 1948

Leclair signale les représentations
du Lindsey Theatre à son reprise,
tout de Londres.