

4/18/67

PLAY TO IMAGINE TRIAL OF OSWALD

Courtroom Drama, Due in
Fall, Avoids Conclusions

By LOUIS CALTA

"The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald," a first play by Anram Ducovny and Leon Friedman that deals with the trial that might have taken place had Oswald not been murdered, will open on Broadway Sept. 25th at one of the Shubert theaters.

Mr. Ducovny wrote the captions for a book of photographs called "Bobby Kennedy's New York," published by Bantam in 1964. Mr. Friedman is a lawyer associated with Kaye, Scholer, Fierman, Hays & Handler, a New York law firm.

Gene Persson, co-producer of the successful Off-Broadway musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," will produce the drama. Mr. Persson has begun casting in preparation for the start of rehearsals Aug. 18. He explained that "no name actors" will be hired because he prefers to have the entire focus on the play itself.

The two-act, 28-character play, set in a Dallas courtroom, does not reach any conclusion. It ends with the judge's charge to the jury.

"Our motivation is to give the best possible prosecution case and the best possible defense," Mr. Friedman said and added, "The audience actually will be the jury."

"We feel nobody can say for sure that one can conclude one way or the other," he continued. "We also feel that although there have been pro and con books about the Warren Commission report, nobody has ever put the two together and given the people the chance to weigh the evidence at one time."

The authors began writing the play "right after the Warren Commission report came out," according to Mr. Ducovny. The source is the 26-volume report, plus additional material brought to light in recent books and newspaper stories.

The play will show Oswald on the stand testifying in his own behalf. The only other actual character to be depicted will be that of Gov. John B. Connally of Texas. The producer sent a copy of the script to Governor Connally, who replied that he "saw no problem" in its being done.

"My reason for wanting to

do this play," Mr. Persson said. "is that I think it's an important document of its time. A Broadway production will bring a new dimension to the entire issue. I think that it will create talk in a controversial manner, which, hopefully, would bring it to the point where it would not be talk any more — so that either the Warren Commission report would be reopened or a new investigation started."

Mr. Friedman, however, says he is "terribly well satisfied — with what the commission did."

"We are presenting it in this manner in order to put the whole issue in its proper perspective," he explained. "We have no political axe to grind."

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