

Inter-School Radio Play Competition, 1971

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The competition was open to Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary schools in Selangor. We received a total of 8 entries, not a very encouraging figure, considering the large number of schools we have here. The winning entries were:

- I. **Primary** St. John's Institution, Kuala Lumpur.
- II. **Lower Secondary** La Salle, Klang.

III. **Upper Secondary** La Salle, Petaling Jaya.

Judges' Comments

- (i) We were surprised to find that only one school had an original script as this was one of the central features of the competition. Evidently, the rules of the competition had not been made clear to the

schools and we did not, therefore, penalise any entrant for adaptations from published works.

- (ii) Both the judges (Mr E. N. Dorall, English Department, University of Malaya and I) felt that most points were lost because pupils tend to 'read' their lines instead of 'speaking' them. This comment holds true for almost all the entrants. Seldom did one hear a natural, speaking voice with its normal range of pitch and tone. One could clearly visualize the script in front of the reader. It was a pity, then, that those who attempted to give a more lively rendering lost marks due to poor articulation.
- (iii) We would also like to point out that music, if carefully chosen, has an important part in a radio play. Perhaps more attention should be paid to selection

of pieces. Lively scenes were sometimes accompanied by a length of funereal music.

We are fairly justified, I think, in saying that a sense of radio is almost non-existent in our schools. (One school even read out all the stage directions!)

We understand, however, the technical problems many of you must have faced and are grateful to the teachers and pupils who participated. We hope you enjoyed yourselves. For those of you who are interested in radio broadcasting and scripting, a little booklet called "Notes on Educational Radio Broadcasting" might be helpful. It is by J. M. Rushton, formerly the Colombo Plan Adviser to Schools Broadcasting, and it copes fairly adequately with the situation here in Malaysia.