

SUNDAY * JULY 15 * 2:30 PM

THE AESTHETIC REALISM THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS
A Thrilling Production of Eli Siegel's Lecture

WAS SHE ROMANTIC OR ACQUISITIVE?

The Beautiful Toughness of Flaubert's
MADAME BOVARY

— with dramatic scenes from the novel —

And — An Interlude of Songs about Love

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The Beautiful Toughness of Flaubert's

MADAME BOVARY

By Eli Siegel

THIS MAGNIFICENT 1950 LECTURE by Eli Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism, explains not only why Gustave Flaubert's 1856 novel is great as literature—but what it can teach us today about love:

“The art of Flaubert consists of two things: 1) no mercy to the evil of the world; 2) trying to make beauty out of seeing evil.

“Emma Bovary is a woman who confuses possessiveness with romance. The usual statement about her is that she was a victim of excess romance. But when we have vanity or ego using ‘romance’ as a cover—that is something else.

“In *Madame Bovary* romance is used as a weapon. This is done by men and women: they can use a notion of romance to have their way and capture another person. Emma is trying to capture the world instead of trying to like what it is.

“In the meantime, while the selfishness accompanied by moonlight is proceeding, Flaubert is taking care of every sentence. He saw each sentence that he wrote as a personal friend.”

With — An Interlude of Songs about Love

Presented by

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