

8-Part N.E.T. Series Will Look at Generation Gap

By GEORGE GENT

National Educational Television will launch an eight-part cycle of dramas next month, about a generation questioning its legacy.

The weekly series of 90-min-

ute programs in entitled "A Generation of Leaves." It will include dramas produced by educational stations in this country, international productions and works by Thornton Wilder and Marya Mannes.

Jac Venza, executive producer of "N.E.T. Playhouse," said:

"There is a consistency of theme in these dramas from a wide variety of sources. The younger generation questions its inheritance; the older generation questions the values of the younger generation — and herein lies the generation gap. Which is nothing new."

Start Here A Day Late

The series opens Thursday, Feb. 19, on the network. "N.E.T. Playhouse" is carried at 8:30 P.M. Fridays on Channel 13, so it will be seen here starting Feb. 20. The program for March 20 has not been selected and the series will skip a week on March 27 to make way for a special N.E.T. documentary.

The opening production will be "America, Inc.," an experimental drama commissioned by N.E.T. and produced at WGBH, Boston. The play views America through the eyes of a young Englishman, an over-40 disk jockey and the TV commercials of a mythical corporation. The Englishman's odyssey is captured in cinema-verité-style, with comment by Jean Shepherd, the radio humorist.

The second work is "Yester-

day the Children Were Dancing," a work about Quebec separatism by Gratien Gelinas, its star. It was produced by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

One From Germany

The other works:

"Walls," from North German Television, is Gunther Lys's drama about the intense struggles of the sons of an ex-Nazi and a former Communist to free themselves from their parents' ideological past.

"Infancy and Childhood" will repeat N.E.T.'s production of two short works by Thornton Wilder, depicting the generation's failure to communicate. The program will also present "Les Mistons," a short film by François Truffaut about adolescence.

"The Bond" is a British Broadcasting Corporation production on the problems of a modern marriage.

"They" is Marya Mannes's adaptation with Charles LeMay of her novel about the isolation of the middle-aged in a world taken over by the young. The play, which was commissioned by N.E.T., will be produced in New York by Jack Kunej.

The series' title comes from the Iliad:

"A generation of men is like a generation of leaves: the wind scatters some leaves upon the ground, while others the burgeoning wood brings forth — and the season of spring comes on. So of men one generation ceases and another springs forth."

NY Times - January 28, 1970