

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

A CONSCIENTIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF INTEREST

THE THEATRE PLAYS AND MUSICALS

S • M • T • W • T • F • S						
		19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

BENEFACTORS—A well-written, well-plotted comedy, often humorous and no less often sad. The irresistibly attractive cast consists of Glenn Close, Sam Waterston, Simon Jones, and Mary Beth Hurt. (Reviewed in our issue of 1/6/86.) (Brooks Atkinson, 256 W. 47th St. 719-4099. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

BIG RIVER—A musical about Huckleberry Finn and Jim and their adventures on the Mississippi, with a book by William Hauptman and music and lyrics by Roger Miller. The large cast is full of charm and so is the scenery, by Heidi Landesman. (5/13/85) (Eugene O'Neill, 230 W. 49th St. 246-0220. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

BLOOD KNOT—Two brothers, one black and one who could pass for white, struggle in vain to emerge from the cultural hell to which they are condemned in South Africa. The author, Athol Fugard, plays one brother, Zakes Mokaee plays the other. Their performances are very fine and not to be missed. (12/23/85) (Golden, 252 W. 45th St. 239-6200. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

BRIGADOON—A revival by the New York City Opera of the Lerner and Loewe musical. The director is Gerald Freedman. Previews Friday evening and Saturday matinee, Feb. 28-March 1. Opens officially on Saturday evening, March 1, and will run through Sunday, March 30. (New York State Theatre, 870-5570. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7. Matinées Saturdays at 2 and Sundays at 1.)

THE CARETAKER—An early Pinter play, in which the author's elliptical snatches of conversation for once fail to convince us that something awful is just about to happen. A Steppenwolf Theatre Company production. (2/10/86) (Circle in the Square, 50th St. west of Broadway. 239-6200. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3. Closes Sunday, March 9.)

CIRCLE REPERTORY COMPANY—The first two of three plays in rotating repertory: **THE MOUND BUILDERS**, a revival of Lanford Wilson's 1975 drama. . . . A modern-dress version of Albert Camus's **CALIGULA**, adapted from an English translation by Stuart Gilbert. (Triplex, 199 Chambers St. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7:30. Matinées Saturdays at 2 and Sundays at 3. For information about play scheduling, call 618-1980.)

CORPSE!—Being a notably law-abiding people, the British relish murder mysteries, especially those with a prevalence of corpses. Keith Baxter and Milo O'Shea are the stars of this classic example of the genre. (1/20/86) (Helen Hayes, 240 W. 44th St. 944-9450. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

DRINKING IN AMERICA—Eric Bogosian in a series of intense, funny, and occasionally painful dramatic monologues, written by Bogosian. (2/3/86) (American Place, 111 W. 46th St. 247-0393. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8, and Saturdays at 7 and 10. Matinées Sundays at 3.)

EQUITY LIBRARY THEATRE—A revival of W. Somerset Maugham's play **THE CONSTANT WIFE** is the fifth in this season's series of eight productions. (103rd St. and Riverside Dr. Nightly, except Mondays, at 8. Matinées Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30. Closes Sun-

day, March 2. For information about tickets, for which contributions are requested, call 663-2028.)

FRESH HORSES—A play by Larry Ketron. (WPA Theatre, 519 W. 23rd St. 206-0523. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7:30. Matinées Sundays at 3. Closes Sunday, March 2.)

GERTRUDE STEIN AND A COMPANION—A play by Win Wells, about Miss Stein and Alice B. Toklas, with Jan Miner and Marian Seldes. (2/17/86) (Lucille Lortel, 121 Christopher St. 924-8782. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7:30. Matinées Saturdays at 2 and Sundays at 3.)

THE GOLDEN LAND—An extremely sentimental musical about Jewish immigrants to the United States. The company of three men and three women includes a fine singer

named Marc Krause. (12/2/85) (Second Avenue Theatre, 189 Second Ave., at 12th St. 674-1460. Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:30, and Sundays at 1 and 5.)

EL GRANDE DE COCA-COLA—A revival of the 1973 musical revue, with the original cast—Ron House, Diz White, and Alan Shearman—who are also the authors, along with John Neville-Andrews. (Village Gate, 160 Bleecker St. 473-7270. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7:30. Matinées Sundays at 3.)

HALALA!—A musical written and directed by Welcome Msoni, performed by a company of eight people who also play traditional South African instruments. (Douglas Fairbanks, 432 W. 42nd St. 239-4321. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7. Matinées Saturdays and Sundays at 3.)

HAY FEVER—Nobody knows how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, but Noël Coward has eight fascinating non-angels dancing on the equivalent space, in one of the earliest and funniest of his comedies. The perfect cast is headed by Rosemary Harris. (12/23/85) (Music Box, 239 W. 45th St. 239-6200. Nightly, except Sundays, at

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE TALK OF THE TOWN	23
"WEBBING"	29
"BOXES" Ian Frazier	31
"ALONE IN THE LUMBER BUSINESS" (POEM) Raymond Carver	34
ANNALS OF THE FORMER WORLD (GEOLOGY—PART I) John Ashbery	38
"TO HIS IMPORTUNATE MISTRESS" (POEM) John McPhee	40
LETTER FROM MOTT STREET Peter De Vries	72
DANCING Calvin Trillin	76
JAZZ Arlene Croce	80
"A WALK" (POEM) Whitney Balliett	85
THE THEATRE (OFF BROADWAY) Katha Pollitt	86
THE CURRENT CINEMA Edith Oliver	89
MUSICAL EVENTS Pauline Kael	94
BOOKS Andrew Porter	98
BRIEFLY NOTED John Updike	104
COVER: Rea Irvin	
DRAWINGS: Charles Addams, Edward Frascino, George Price, James Stevenson, J. B. Handelman, Jack Ziegler, Henry Martin, Robert Weber, Dana Fradon, Misha Richter, Tom Funk, Charles Saxon, Roz Chast, George Booth, William Steig, Frank Modell, Lee Lorenz, Edward Koren, Donald Reilly, Warren Miller, Ed Fisher, Arnie Levin	

THE NEW YORKER
25 WEST 43RD STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
(212) 840-3800

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In ordering a change of address, subscribers should give four weeks' notice, providing both old and new addresses, with Zip Codes. If possible, please send the address label from a recent issue.

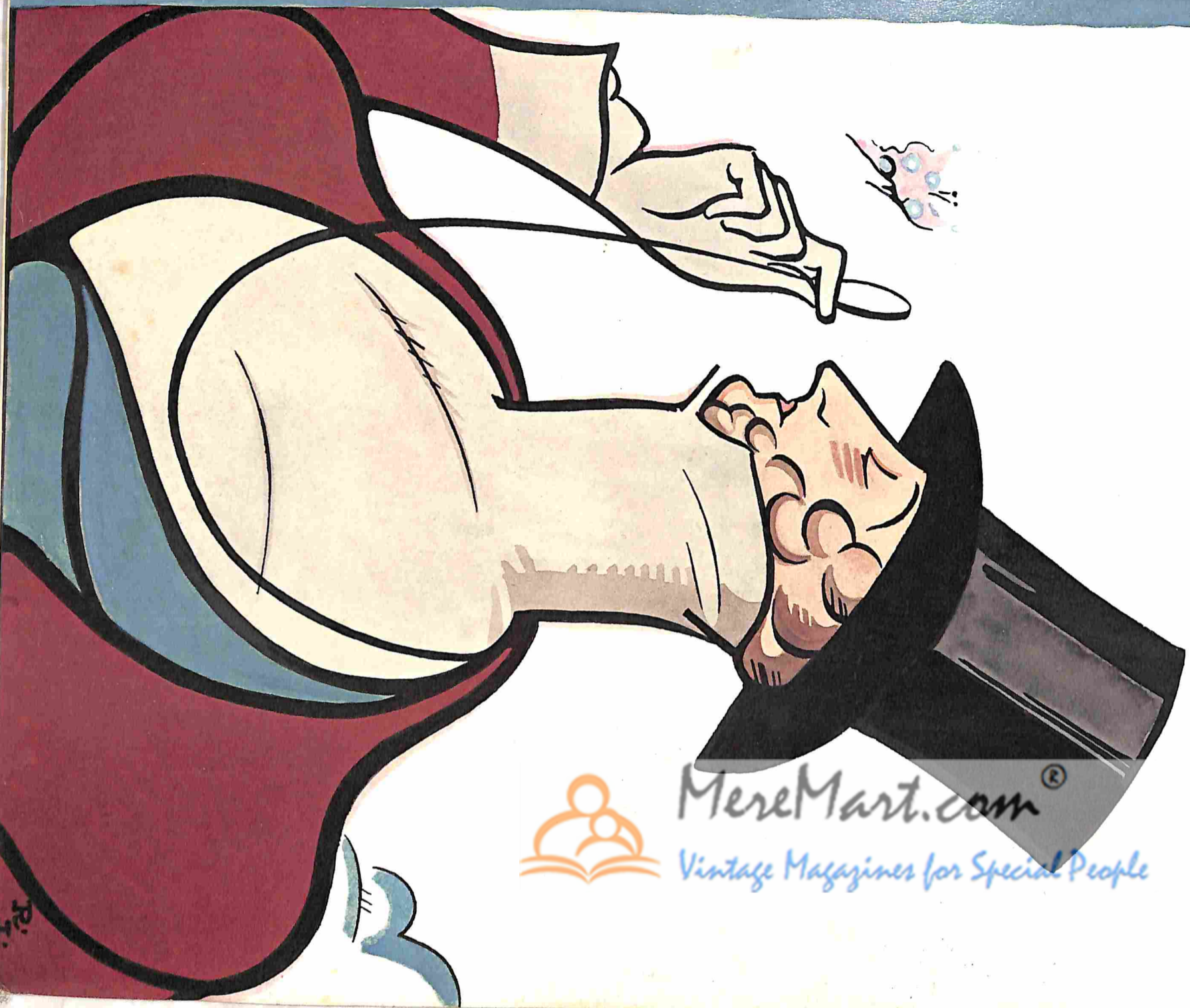
THE NEW YORKER (ISSN 0028-792X), published weekly by The New Yorker Magazine, Inc., 25 W. 43rd St., N.Y., N.Y. 10036; Steven T. Florio, president & publisher; Jonathan E. Newhouse, executive vice-president; Michael F. Trainor, associate publisher; Elaine M. Matteo, vice-president, treasurer & secretary; Milton Greenstein, Sam R. Spoto and Rebecca W. Darwin, vice-presidents; Stuart H. Jason, vice-president and comptroller; Douglas W. Florenzie, circulation director; Branch advertising offices: 111 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601; 41 Osgood Place, San Francisco, Calif. 94133; Suite 2360, 5900 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90036; 671 Chestnut St., Boston, Mass. 02108; 19 South Audley St., London, W1Y 5DN. Metropolitan Publishers Representatives: 3017 Piedmont Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30305; 2500 So. Dixie Highway, Miami, FL 33133; 3016 Mason Place, Tampa, FL 33629. Vol. LXII, No. 1, February 24, 1986. Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices. Authorized as second-class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada, and for payment of postage in cash. © 1986 by The New Yorker Magazine, Inc., in the United States and Canada. All rights reserved. No part of this periodical may be reproduced without the consent of The New Yorker. Printed in U.S.A. Subscription rates: In U.S. and possessions, one year, \$32.00; two years, \$52.00. In Canada, one year, \$44.00. Other foreign, \$52.00. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The New Yorker, 25 W. 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

Feb. 24, 1986

THE

NEW YORKER

Price \$1.50



MereMart.com®

Vintage Magazines for Special People

