

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

A CONSCIENTIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF INTEREST

THE THEATRE

PLAYS AND MUSICALS

AMERICAN THEATRE EXCHANGE—The last production in a festival of plays by American regional theatre companies is **IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST**, from the Mark Taper Forum of Los Angeles. (Joyce, 175 Eighth Ave., at 19th St. 242-0800. Wednesday through Friday at 8, and Saturday at 9. Matinees Wednesday at 2 and Saturday at 5. Closes Saturday, Aug. 31.)

ARMS AND THE MAN—A self-indulgent production of Shaw's early comedy, in which the director and all the members of the cast dare to patronize the author. (Reviewed in our issue of 6/10/85.) (Circle in the Square, 50th St. west of Broadway, 239-6200. Wednesday through Saturday at 8. Matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2, and Sunday at 3. Closes Sunday, Sept. 1.)

As Is—This touching play by William M. Hoffman concerns a personable young homosexual who is afflicted with AIDS, and is also a documentary of sorts about his milieu in this city. The lively, impressionistic performance was directed by Marshall W. Mason, and the acting by the large cast, several of whom appear in multiple roles, is just right. **With Jonathan Hogan and Jonathan Hodge.**

(3/25/85) (Lyceum, 149 W. 45th St. 239-6200. Nightly except Sundays, at 8. Mon-Fridays and Saturdays at 2.)

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Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

MAYOR—A musical based on the best-seller of the same name by Edward I. Koch. With a score and lyrics by Charles Strouse and a book by Warren Leight. (Top of the Gate, 160 Bleecker St. 982-9292. Tuesdays, except Sept. 3, through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinée Sundays at 3; special matinee Labor Day at 5.)

NEGRO ENSEMBLE COMPANY—A rather beguiling, if lightweight, farce by the Jamaican playwright Trevor Rhone, **TWO CAN PLAY** is about a middle-aged Jamaican couple. The husband is a blowhard; the wife is put-upon in every way, until she flies to Miami and comes back a changed woman. The first act is too intricate for its own good, but the second act is clear and funny. The actors—Hazel N. Medina and Sullivan H. Walker—couldn't be better. (Theatre Four, 440 W. 42nd St., 8 p.m.)

days at 8:30; and Sundays at 7. M.
Saturdays at 3 and Sundays at 2:30.

THE NORMAL HEART—An interminable, non-play about AIDS, and its victims in the homosexual community of this city, compared to the Jews under the Nazis. Names Hitler, Roosevelt, Morgenthau, eventually, Mayor Koch are dropped with equal contempt. The evening is an insult to its audience and, what is far more so, to the sufferers from this dreadful, so-called hopeless disease. (Public, 425 Lafayette St., 598-7150. Nightly, except Mondays. Matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30.)

THE ODD COUPLE—Neil Simon has turned comedy about a pair of ill-matched men into a non-comedy about a pair of women, one of which has never been seen on earth less on *Riverside Drive*. (6/24/85) **Thurst**, 235 W. 44th St. 239-6200. **Thurs** through **Saturdays** at 8. **Matinees** on **Sundays** and **Saturdays** at 2, and **Sundays** at 4.

ORPHANS—A melodrama, by Lyle about two young brothers—one a student and pickpocket, the other an apprentice mill—and an older mobster who takes their house and their lives. The first is quite well, the second is terrible.

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