

GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

A CONSCIENTIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF INTEREST

THE THEATRE PLAYS AND MUSICALS

AN ACUTE OBSESSION—A play by Barbara Feldman and Eric Rosse. Opens Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 7. (Harold Clurman, 412 W. 42nd St. 594-2370. Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7. Matinées Saturdays at 2 and Sundays at 3.)

ANGRY HOUSEWIVES—A boring musical about four dissatisfied women who form a rock group. The closing number is funny, but there's a long, long wait. (Reviewed in our issue of 9/29/86.) (Minetta Lane, 18-22 Minetta Lane, east of Sixth Ave., between W. 3rd and Bleecker Sts. 420-8000. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinées Sundays at 3.)

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE—Jean Stapleton, Polly Holliday, and Tony Roberts are the leading actors in this farce by Joseph Kesselring, which was a big hit back in 1941. It is still pretty funny and so worth devoting an idle evening to. (7/7/86) (46th Street Theatre, 226 W. 46th St. 221-1211. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

CARMILLA—A revival of a chamber opera adapted by Wilford Leach from a novel by J. S. Le Fanu. (La Mama, 74A E. 4th St. 475-7710. Wednesdays through Sundays at 8. Closes Sunday, Nov. 2.)

CIRCLE REPERTORY COMPANY—Presenting two plays in rotating repertory—**IN THIS FALLEN CITY**: Bryan Williams' mystery, set in East Harlem, is not as gripping as it should be, in spite of excellent performances by Michael Higgins and Danton Stone. Closes Sunday, Nov. 9. (10/6/86) . . . **THE EARLY GIRL**: By Caroline Kava. In previews; opens officially on Thursday, Oct. 30, and will run through Sunday, Nov. 23. (Circle Repertory Company Theatre, 99 Seventh Ave. S. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7:30. Matinées Saturdays at 2 and Sundays at 3. For information about play scheduling, call 924-7100.)

THE COMMON PURSUIT—An English import. Six Cambridge undergraduates, in the sixties, plan to launch a literary magazine in accordance with the rigorous standards of the critic F. R. Leavis, and in the ensuing twenty years manage to breach these standards, adding a few betrayals of their own. Simon Gray's play, while not especially original, is consistently entertaining, and it is very well performed, under the direction of the dramatist and Michael McGuire. With Kristoffer Tabori and Dylan Baker, among others. (Promenade, Broadway at 76th St. 580-1313. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7:30. Matinées Saturdays and Sundays at 3.)

CONFESSIONS OF A NIGHTINGALE—Ray Stricklyn as Tennessee Williams in a one-man play adapted by Charlotte Chandler and Mr. Stricklyn from Miss Chandler's book "The Ultimate Seduction." (Audrey Wood, 359 W. 48th St. 307-5452. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

DOUBLE IMAGE THEATRE—Presenting two plays in repertory—**THE DREAMER EXAMINES HIS PILLOW**: John Patrick Shanley's comedy—sometimes strong and funny, sometimes tedious—is composed of three conversations, between (1) a young woman and her former lover, (2) the young woman and her father, and (3) the father and the lover, all of them citizens of the Bronx. (10/20/86) Wednesday through Friday, Oct. 22-24, and Saturday, Nov. 1. . . . **THE RETURN OF PINOCCHIO**: By Richard Nelson. (10/6/86) Saturday and Sunday,

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

Oct. 25-26, and Tuesday through Friday, Oct. 28-31. (304 W. 47th St. 265-0794. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinées Sundays at 3.)

GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE—A surprisingly lively and touching show about the great comedian/humorist. Frank Ferrante's dedicated impersonation becomes a true performance; Les Marsden, doubling, comes close to Chico and seems inspired as Harpo; and Faith Prince deftly acts the women in their lives, among them, of course, Margaret Dumont. Arthur Marx (son of Groucho) and Robert Fisher were the playwrights; Mr. Marx directed. (10/20/86) (Lucille Lortel, 121 Christopher St. 924-8782. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinées Sundays at 3.)

THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES—A superb revival of John Guare's brilliant, ferocious comedy, with Swoosie Kurtz and John Mahoney, among other fine performers. Jerry Zaks was the acute, perceptive director. (3/31/86) (Plymouth, 236 W. 45th St. 239-6200. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées

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

THE IMPOSTOR—This import from modern China, about a clever young man who passes himself off as the son of one of the founders of the revolution, and rises steadily in a world of crooked, obsequious Party functionaries, is performed in broad, farcical style by the capable members of the enterprising Pan Asian Repertory company. Keenan Shimizu is the attractive hero, and Donald Li is very good as the drunken, disillusioned manager of a collective farm. (10/20/86) (Playhouse 46, 423 W. 46th St. 245-2660. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Saturdays at 2. Closes Saturday, Nov. 1.)

INTO THE LIGHT—Dean Jones in a musical with a book by Jeff Tambornino, a score by Lee Holdridge, and lyrics by John Forster. Staged by Michael Maurer. Preview Wednesday matinee, Oct. 22. Opens officially on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 7. (Neil Simon, 250 W. 52nd St. 757-8646. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

KRAPP'S LAST TAPE—A disappointing revival of Samuel Beckett's play. (9/15/86) (Actors Playhouse, 100 Seventh Ave. S. 691-6226. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 8 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinées Sundays at 3.)

LADY DAY AT EMERSON'S BAR & GRILL—A play of sorts about one of Billie Holiday's last engagements, at a night club in Philadelphia, well sung and performed by the personable

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE TALK OF THE TOWN	31
"STEALING TIME"	Mary Grimm 36
"DUE CAPPUCINI"	David Uplike 39
"AUTUMN FIRESTORM" (POEM)	Charles Wright 40
"WEDNESDAY" (POEM)	Marvin Bell 44
PROFILES (INGRID SISCHY—PART II)	Janet Malcolm 47
JAZZ	Whitney Balliett 81
A REPORTER AT LARGE (EUROPEAN CEMETERIES)	Berton Roueché 100
THE THEATRE	Brendan Gill 116
MUSICAL EVENTS	Andrew Porter 118
LETTER FROM WASHINGTON	Elizabeth Drew 124
BOOKS (BRIEFLY NOTED)	144

COVER: *Eugène Mihaesco*
DRAWINGS: *Joseph Mirachi, Dana Fradon, Al Ross, Arnie Levin, Edward Frascino, Gahan Wilson, Charles Addams, Roz Chast, Lee Lorenz, Saul Steinberg, J. B. Handelsman, Eugène Mihaesco, Donald Reilly, James Stevenson, Warren Miller, William Steig, Charles Barsotti, Mick Stevens, Lou Myers*

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 and publisher; Jonathan E. Newhouse, executive vice-president; Rebecca Wesson Darwin, vice-president and associate publisher; Milton Greenstein and Sam R. Spoto, vice-presidents; Stuart H. Jason, vice-president; and comptroller; Owen J. Hochreiter, advertising director; Frank Mustacato, 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; 67½ 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. 36, October 27, 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.

"You mean you're buying a brownstone, and you still don't have a Personal Banker?"

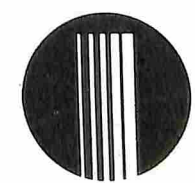


An Irving Trust Personal Banker can arrange for almost any kind of financing and credit you need.

To help you close on that co-op, condominium or new home. To take advantage of a unique investment. Or to help smooth your son's or daughter's path into the new semester.

An Irving Trust Personal Banker understands your needs and will work quickly to assure you'll have the cash you need when you need it. At terms that can be tailored to your personal cash flow.

Isn't it time you moved up to your own Personal Banker? Phone now for an appointment. 212/635-6311.



Irving Trust

Member FDIC



Oct. 27, 1986

THE

Price \$1.50

NEW YORKER



MereMart.com[®]

Vintage Magazines for Special People

Erving P. Hays