THE THEATRE PLAYS AND MUSICALS

An Acute Obsession—A play by Barbara Feldman and Eric Rosse. (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.)

ALTERATIONS - There is more fun than one might expect in Leigh Curran's play about domestic tensions, much of it contributed by the ac-tors, under Austin Pendleton's direction. They are Gretchen Cryer, Cynthia Nixon, Wayne Tippit, Jane Hoffman, and Mary Kane. (Reviewed in this issue.) (WPA Theatre, 519 W. 23rd St. 206-0523. Wednesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 6 and 9; and Sundays at 7. Matinées Sundays at 3. Closes Sunday, Nov. 16.)

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—This revival of a 1941 Broadway hit has a big cast and an exceptionally fine set, by Marjorie Bradley Kellogg. The subject is murder, mingled with Victorian good manners; the murder weapon is elderberry wine. (7/7/86) (46th Street Theatre, 226 W. 46th St. 221-1211. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinées Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sun-

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. Wednesday through Sunday at 8. Closes Sun-

CIRCLE REPERTORY COMPANY-Presenting two 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 Friday, Nov. 14. (10/6/86)... The Early Girl: By Caroline Kava. Opens on Thursday, Oct. 30, and will run through Sunday, Nov. 30. (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.) 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 critdance with the rigorous standards of the critic F. R. Leavis, and in the ensuing twenty years manage to breach these standards. 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. (Reviewed in this issue.) (Promenade, Broadway at 76th St. 580-1313. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7:30. Matinées Saturdays and Sundays at 3,) 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. Wednesday through Saturday at 8. Matinées Wednesday and Saturday at 2, and Sunday at 3. Closes Sunday, Nov. 2.)

DOUBLE IMAGE THEATRE—Presenting THE DREAMER EXAMINES HIS PILLOW: John Patrick Shanley's comedy—sometimes strong and funny, some-times tedious—is composed of three conver-sations, between (1) a young woman and her former lover, (2) the young woman and her

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father, and (3) the father and the lover, all of them citizens of the Bronx. (10/20/86) (304 W. 47th St. 265-0794. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8, and Saturdays at 7 and 10. Matinées Sundays at 3.)

Equity Library Theatre-A revival of the 1954 musical THE PAJAMA GAME will be the second in this season's series of eight productions. The book is by George Abbott and Richard Bissell, and the score and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross. Opens on Thursday, Oct. 30, and will run through Sunday, Nov. 23. (Equity Library Theatre, 103rd St. and Riverside Dr. Nightly, except Mondays, at 8. Matinées Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30. For information about tickets, for which contributions are requested, call 663-2028.)

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.)

HAVE I GOT A GIRL FOR YOU!—A musical with a book by Penny Rockwell and Joel Greenhouse, and music and lyrics by Dick Gallagher. Opens Wednesday, Oct. 29. (Second Avenue Theatre, 189 Second Ave., at 12th St. 674-1460. Opening-night curtain at 7; thereafter. Tuesdays the suit of the second Ave. after, 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 Sun-

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

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THE NEW YORKER

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