

# GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

A CONSCIENTIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF INTEREST

## THE THEATRE

### PLAYS AND MUSICALS

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

**BLITHE SPIRIT**—Richard Chamberlain, Blythe Danner, Judith Ivey, and Geraldine Page are featured in a revival of Noël Coward's comedy. Directed by Brian Murray. (Neil Simon, 250 W. 52nd St. 757-8646. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.)

**BROADWAY BOUND**—A rueful comedy in which Neil Simon studies the middle-class depths from which he sprang and has kept springing. The cast includes Linda Lavin, Jonathan Silverman, John Randolph, Philip Sterling, Jason Alexander, and Phyllis Newman. The director is Gene Saks. (Reviewed in our issue of 12/15/86.) (Broadhurst, 235 W. 44th St. 239-6200. Nightly, except Sundays, at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.)

**COASTAL DISTURBANCES**—Tina Howe's funny and beautiful play about love is set on a private beach on Massachusetts' North Shore. Annette Bening, as a photographer from this city, and Timothy Daly, as a lifeguard, are the beguiling lovers, and among the other actors, as summer people, are Rosemary Murphy, Jonas Abry, Heather Mac Rae, and Ronald Guttman. Carole Rothman is the able director. (12/1/86) (Circle in the Square, 50th St. west of Broadway. 239-6200. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

**THE COLORED MUSEUM**—A sharp, satiric revue on the subject of blackness and related matters, which is almost done in by damnable sound amplification. George C. Wolfe was the clever writer, and L. Kenneth Richardson the able director. The performers, all of them splendid, are Loretta Devine, Tommy Hollis, Reggie Montgomery, Vickilyn Reynolds, and Danitra Vance. (11/10/86) (Public, 425 Lafayette St. 598-7150. Nightly, except Mondays, at 8. Matinéés Saturdays and Sundays at 3.)

**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. 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. (11/3/86) (Promenade, Broadway at 76th St. 580-1313. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7:30. Matinéés Saturdays and Sundays at 3.)

**EQUITY LIBRARY THEATRE**—The sixth in this season's series of eight productions is a revival of the 1939 musical *TOO MANY GIRLS*, with a score by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Lorenz Hart, and a book by George Marion, Jr. (Equity Library Theatre, 103rd St. and Riverside Dr. Nightly at 8. Matinéés Saturday and Sunday at 2:30. Closes Sunday, April 5. For information about tickets, for which contributions are requested, call 663-2028.)

**FENCES**—August Wilson's play about a black garbageman, formerly a baseball player of professional calibre, is as powerful as, and even richer than, his "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." The triumphant performance, with James Earl Jones in the leading role, supported by Mary Alice, Courtney B. Vance, Frankie R. Faison, Ray Aranha, Charles Brown, and Karima Miller, was directed by Lloyd Richards. (Reviewed in this issue.) (46th Street Theatre, 226 W. 46th St. 221-1211. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

**A GIRL'S GUIDE TO CHAOS**—A comedy by Cynthia Heimel. (American Place, 111 W. 46th St.

869-4731. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinéés 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. Matinéés Sundays at 3.)

**THE HUNGER ARTIST**—Conceived and directed by Martha Clarke and "created with" the actors who perform it, this evocation in words, music, and dance of the works of Franz Kafka makes a long, depressing evening. (3/9/87) (St. Clement's, 423 W. 46th St. 265-4375. Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 and 9:30; Friday at 8; and Saturday at 7:30 and 9:30. Closes Saturday, April 4.)

**JACKIE MASON'S "THE WORLD ACCORDING TO ME!"**

—Jackie Mason is a classic standup Jewish comedian, the George Washington of the Borscht Belt. His material consists almost entirely of outrageous insults addressed to Jews, Italians, Poles, Puerto Ricans, and Wasps. (Only the Irish escape unscathed, and who knows why? Perhaps they are being offered the greatest insult of all.) For more than thirty years, Mason's audiences—that is, his victims—have found him hilarious, and the sorry truth of the matter is that he is hilarious, for reasons that might well cause Freud himself to break down and sob as he sought to explain them. (Brooks Atkinson, 256 W. 47th St. 719-4099. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinéés Saturdays at 2 and Sundays at 3.)

**THE KNIFE**—A very, very solemn cantata about an Englishman, married and with three children, who undergoes a sex-change operation. The show doesn't amount to much, in spite of the good singing and acting of Mandy Patinkin, as the patient, and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, as a woman who loves him. David Hare was both author and director; music by Nick Bicát and lyrics by Tim Rose Price. (3/23/87) (Public, 425 Lafayette St. 598-7150. Wednesday through Saturday at 8. Matinéés Wednesday at 2, and Saturday and Sunday at 3. Closes Sunday, April 5.)

**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. (9/29/86) (Westside Arts, 407 W. 43rd St. 541-8394. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8;

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DRAWINGS: Warren Miller, Frank Modell, Mischa Richter, Bernard Schoenbaum, William Hamilton, Robert Mankoff, Stan Hunt, Eldon Dardini, J. B. Handelsman, Charles Addams, Jack Ziegler, James Stevenson, Dana Fradon, Arnie Levin, Henry Martin, Boris Drucker, Charles Barsotti, Thomas B. Allen, Ed Fisher, Roz Chast, Robert Weber, Gahan Wilson, William Steig, Ed Arno

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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; Sam R. Spoto, vice-president; Stuart H. Jason, vice-president and treasurer; Ruth A. Diem, vice-president and human resources director; Lynn W. Guthrie, 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. LXIII, No. 7, April 6, 1987. 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. © 1987 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, one year, \$52.00, payable in advance. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The New Yorker, 25 W. 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.



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