

# GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

A CONSCIENTIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF INTEREST

## THE THEATRE PLAYS AND MUSICALS

**AREN'T WE ALL?**—Claudette Colbert, Rex Harrison, Leslie O'Hara, Jeremy Brett, and George Rose in a revival of Frederick Lonsdale's London drawing-room comedy of 1923. Delightful nonsense, not to be missed. (Reviewed in our issue of 5/13/85.) (Brooks Atkinson, 256 W. 47th St. 719-4099. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

**ARMS AND THE MAN**—A revival of the Shaw play, with Kevin Kline, Raul Julia, and Glenna Headley. John Malkovich is the director. Previews Wednesday, May 29. Opens officially on Thursday, May 30, at 7. (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.)

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

**BIG RIVER**—A musical version of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Twain's great novel has been respectfully dealt with in a book by William Hauptman, with music and lyrics by Roger Miller. Daniel H. Jenkins plays Huck, Ron Richardson plays Jim, and John Short plays Tom Sawyer. Heidi Landesman has provided an unusually evocative setting—somehow, she has managed to put the Mississippi River on a stage. (5/13/85) (Eugene O'Neill, 230 W. 49th St. 246-0220. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

**BILOXI BLUES**—A comedy that verges on autohagiography, the hero being the author, Neil Simon, as a young Army draftee who, in 1943, is struggling to assume the mantle of writer. Matthew Broderick is the attractive star, and Barry Miller is superb as a young but already wizened Jewish intellectual. (4/8/85) (Neil Simon, 250 W. 52nd St. 757-8646. Nightly, except Sundays, at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.)

**CHILDHOOD**—Glenn Close stars in Simone Benmussa's adaptation of Nathalie Sarraute's memoirs. Barbara Wright translated the play and Miss Benmussa is the director. Opens Wednesday, May 29, and will run through Sunday, June 30. (Samuel Beckett, 410 W. 42nd St. 594-2826. Opening-night curtain at 7:15; thereafter, Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:30, and Sundays at 3.)

**CHOPIN IN SPACE**—A play by Phil Bosakowski. (Ark, 131 Spring St. 226-7682. Thursdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7. Matinéés Sundays at 3. Closes Sunday, June 9.)

**DOCTOR FAUSTUS**—Daniel Gerroll and Samuel Blackwell's adaptation of the Christopher Marlowe play, with Mr. Gerroll in the title role. (Susan Bloch, 307 W. 26th St. Wednesday through Saturday at 8. Matinée Sunday at 3. Closes Sunday, June 2. For tickets, call 722-1200.)

**DOUBLES**—The scene is a locker room in a tennis club in Connecticut, where four men undress and dress and undress while they talk over their more or less miserable lives. This is a comedy. The author is David Wiltse, and

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			29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

the four men are played by Austin Pendleton, John Cullum, Ron Leibman, and Tony Roberts. (5/20/85) (Ritz, 219 W. 48th St. 582-4022. Nightly, except Sundays, at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.)

**ENSEMBLE STUDIO THEATRE**—Three programs of one-act plays. The opening program, now concluded, is reviewed in this issue. . . . ¶ "The Road to the Graveyard," by Horton Foote; "Desperadoes," by Keith Reddin; "Aggressive Behavior," by Stuart Spencer; and "Between Cars," by Alan Zweibel: Wednesday and Thursday, May 29-30, at 7:30; Sunday, June 2, and Wednesday, June 5, at 7; Friday, June 7, at 7:30; and Saturday, June 8, at 7 and 10. . . . ¶ "North of Providence," by Edward Allan Baker; "The Semi-Formal," by Louise Jerauld; "Painting a Wall," by David Lan; and "The Happy Hour," by Shel Silverstein: Friday, May 31, at 7:30; Saturday, June 1, at 7 and 10; and Sunday, June 2, at 3 (previews); Monday, June 3, at 7:30 (opening); and Thursday, June 6, at 7:30. (549 W. 52nd St. 247-3405. Closes Monday, June 17.)

**EQUITY LIBRARY THEATRE**—A revival of the 1973 musical **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC** by Stephen Sondheim (music and lyrics) and Hugh Wheeler

(book), suggested by Ingmar Bergman's film "Smiles of a Summer Night," is the last in this season's series of productions. (103rd St. and Riverside Dr. Nightly at 8. Matinéés Saturday and Sunday at 2:30. Closes Sunday, June 2. For information about tickets, for which contributions are requested, call 663-2028.)

**THE FOREIGNER**—A very funny play by (and with) Larry Shue, with good performances by every single member of the company, most notably by Kevin Geer as a lovable half-wit. Jerry Zaks was the admirable director. (11/19/84) (Astor Place Theatre, 434 Lafayette St., near Astor Pl. 254-4370. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinéés Sundays at 3.)

**GRIND**—A vigorous but curiously sad musical about a burlesque house in Chicago during the depths of the Depression. Splendidly acted, under the direction of Harold Prince, by Ben Vereen, Leilani Jones, Timothy Nolen, and Stubby Kaye. The exceptionally vivid setting is by Clarke Dunham. The book is by Fay Kanin, the music by Larry Grossman, and the lyrics by Ellen Fitzgugh. (4/22/85) (Mark Hellinger, 237 W. 51st St. 757-7064. Nightly, except Sundays, at 8. Matinéés Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.)

**HANNAH SENESH**—A monologue based on the diaries and poems of the Zionist heroine. Lori Wilner is the monologist. Written and directed by David Schechter, with music by Steven Lutvak, Elizabeth Swados, and Mr. Schechter. (Cherry Lane, 38 Commerce St.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE TALK OF THE TOWN	31
"WOMEN"	36
"IN COUNTRY"	Saul Steinberg 36
"REVIVING THE GEYSER, REYKJAVIK, ICELAND, 1935" (POEM)	Bobbie Ann Mason 38
ONWARD AND UPWARD WITH THE ARTS (CABLE TELEVISION—PART III)	Linda Bierds 44
THE ART WORLD	Thomas Whiteside 82
THE THEATRE (OFF BROADWAY)	Calvin Tomkins 106
THE CURRENT CINEMA	Edith Oliver 114
BOOKS	Pauline Kael 116
BRIEFLY NOTED	Naomi Bliven 121
COVER:	Arnie Levin 124
DRAWINGS:	Edward Koren, Jack Ziegler, Arnie Levin, Gahan Wilson, James Stevenson, Bernard Schoenbaum, William Steig, Donald Reilly, Everett Opie, Richard McCallister, Charles Saxon, Henry Martin, Leo Cullum, Al Ross, Joseph Mirachi, Mick Stevens

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