

# GOINGS ON ABOUT TOWN

A CONSCIENTIOUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS OF INTEREST

## THE THEATRE

### PLAYS AND MUSICALS

**ALL MY SONS**—Arvin Brown (director) and his capable company have made an acceptable show out of Arthur Miller's clunky play, which was first done here in 1947. Richard Kiley is the villainous businessman who sells defective parts to the Air Force. (Reviewed in our issue of 5/4/87.) (Golden, 252 W. 45th St. 239-6200. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinees Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

**ASINAMALI!**—A brilliant play written and directed by South African playwright Mbongeni Ngema, which was seen last fall at Lincoln Center's "Woza Afrika!" festival. (9/29/86) (Jack Lawrence, 359 W. 48th St. 307-5452. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinees Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

**BLITHE SPIRIT**—This revival of Noël Coward's comedy is an almost total miss, a waste of the talents of Geraldine Page and Blythe Danner, among others. (4/13/87) (Neil Simon, 250 W. 52nd St. 757-8646. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinees Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2, and Sundays at 3.)

**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. (12/15/86) (Broadhurst, 235 W. 44th St. 239-6200. Nightly, except Sundays, at 8. Matinees 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 director. (12/1/86) (Circle in the Square, 50th St. west of Broadway. 239-6200. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8. Matinees 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. Matinees 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. Matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 3.)

**DRIVING MISS DAISY**—Alfred Uhry's play is more a sentimental than a dramatic occasion, which tells, in a series of brief scenes, of the growing attachment of a cranky old woman in Atlanta to her black chauffeur. What gives the evening distinction is the performance—the fine acting of Dana Ivey and Morgan Freeman, under Ron Lagomarsino's deft direction. (4/27/87) (Playwrights Horizons,

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23

416 W. 42nd St. 279-4200. Tuesdays through Fridays at 8; Saturdays at 7 and 10; and Sundays at 7. Matinees Sundays at 3.)

**EDUCATING RITA**—Austin Pendleton plays the scruffy, bookish professor and Laurie Metcalf the brash, sharp-witted local hairdresser whom he educates, bit by bit, in Willy Russell's delightful comedy, which is set in the North of England. The good production is by Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company; Jeff Perry was the director. (Reviewed in this issue.) (Westside Arts, 407 W. 43rd St. 541-8394. Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8, and Sundays at 7. Matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 3.)

**ENSEMBLE STUDIO THEATRE**—A festival of one-act plays. "Lady of Fadima," by Edward Allan Baker; "A Ripe Banana," by Jennifer Lombard; "After School Special," by Keith Reddin; "All for Charity," by John Patrick Shanley; and "Dinah Washington Is Dead," by Kermit Frazier. Wednesday and Thursday, May 13-14, at 7:30; Saturday, May 16, at 5 (previews) and 9 (opening); and Monday,

day, May 18, and Thursday, May 21, at 7:30. . . . "The Author's Voice," by Richard Greenberg; "The One About the Guy in the Bar," by Ernest Thompson; "The Last Outpost at the Edge of the World," by Stuart Spencer; and "A Million Dollar Glass of Water," by Anthony McKay. Friday, May 15, at 7:30; Sunday, May 17, at 3 and 7; Wednesday, May 20, and Friday, May 22, at 7:30; and Saturday, May 23, at 5 and 9. (549 W. 52nd St. 247-3405. Through Monday, June 15.)

**EQUITY LIBRARY THEATRE**—The final production of the season will be a revival of **WISH YOU WERE HERE**, a 1952 musical by Arthur Kober and Joshua Logan (book) and Harold Rome (music and lyrics). Opens on Thursday, May 14, and will run through Sunday, June 7. (103rd St. and Riverside Dr. Nightly, except Mondays, at 8. Matinees Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30. 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. (4/6/87) (46th Street

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COVER: J. J. Sempé

**DRAWINGS:** Robert Weber, Donald Reilly, Roz Chast, Dean Vietor, Warren Miller, Stan Hunt, Edward Koren, W. B. Park, William Hamilton, Michael Maslin, Mick Stevens, Joseph Mirachi, William Steig, Jack Ziegler, J. B. Handelsman, Gahan Wilson, Arnie Levin, Tom Funk, Al Ross, James Stevenson, Henry Martin, Bill Woodman, Mike Twohy, Charles Barsotti, Stuart Leeds, Mischa Richter

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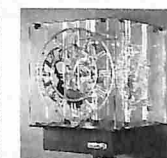
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