

CAPITALITES

By Anne Price

Rare Treat

One of those magic moments in theater came to life for a few lucky people last week in a presentation by the Louisiana Players Guild of works by Flannery O'Connor.

It is hard to convey the degree of theater magic created by three people on a small platform in the little Workshop Theater in the LSU Music and Dramatic Arts Building. Mary Frances Hopkins and Bill Harbin, associate professors in the department of speech, and Brent Bouldin, a graduate student in speech, were the miracle workers, bringing to life the unforgettable characters captured in the writings of the distinguished Southern author.

The three artists proved that nothing is needed but talent and inspiration to create the miracle of theater. When Bouldin read "The Rice" a haunting tale of an unhappy child, the audience could see the people and places perfectly well through the imagery created by his voice, expression and gestures. He was the entire cast, and the narrator, and he was wonderful.

Harbin and Ms. Hopkins demonstrated how Bouldin became so adept, for they are professors in the department. "Everything That Rises Must Converge" is a tremendous character study. Ms. Hopkins was perfect as the aging Southern belle, far removed from reality, who was really never so much a pampered darling herself, but only lived the role through stories of lost glory. It remained for Harbin to top the evening with his performance of the son, jawardly reviling his mother for her refusal to see things as they really are, educated, unemployed, and in truth living in a dream world even flimsier than that of his mother. His final scene was incredibly moving, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The whole evening was theater at its best. Nothing on stage here this season has equalled it, and any major, full scale production will have to go some to reach the stature of this simple but awe-inspiring evening.

All at Once

This is going to be some week, with major entertainment events scheduled every day, beginning with the touring company production of "Man of La Mancha" at the LSU Union Theater today and continuing right on through Friday, when the Community Concert Association presents the Canadian Opera Company production of "La Boheme."

The selection includes theater, music and dance. Only those strong of limb and dedicated to the arts will be able to take in all that's offered this week.

"Man of La Mancha" will be presented twice today — at 3:30 and 8:30 p. m.

More theater and musical theater on the schedule includes the Baton Rouge Little Theater production of "How the Other Half Loves," which opens Wednesday at the Playhouse in Bon Marche. Curtain time is 8:15 p. m. and the show runs nightly except Sunday and Monday.

And the Gonzales Little Theater is presenting "South Pacific" this week, with a gala first night Wednesday and nightly performances at 8:15 p. m. through Saturday. The first night is sold out, but some tickets are still available for the other nights. The show, directed by Lin Holdridge, will be staged at the Gonzales Recreation Center.

The Utah Dance Company will be in residence at LSU this week, and will present a public performance at 8 p. m. Wednesday in the Union Theater.

And the final attraction of the University Chamber Music Society will be presented at 8 p. m. Monday in the Union Colonnade by the Beethoven Quartet of Rome, an ensemble made up of former soloists from the world famous I Musici. The group was formed recently during the Beethoven Bicentennial and has toured the world since its inception.

More music will be available Thursday, when the LSU Music Faculty Showcase will be presented in the Colonnade. This event is sponsored by the Sigma Iota Sorority as a benefit.

Community Concert

Puccini's most famous opera, "La Boheme," will be presented in English by the Community Concert Association Friday night in the Union Theater. The Canadian Opera Company will stage a full scale production, with the Canadian Opera Orchestra.

The association is already making plans for the 1976-77 season, and four programs for the season have been selected.

They will include another favorite opera by the Canadian Opera Touring Company — "La Traviata" by Verdi.

Other events selected are Metropolitan bass-baritone Donald

Gramm, who is famous for singing most of the major bass-baritone roles in the Met repertoire; violinist Endre Balogh, a young American artist of Hungarian descent who has already won a distinguished reputation at the age of 22; and the Gregg Smith Singers. Dates will be announced later.

Up With People

The international entertainment sensation of the young, Up With People, made a preview visit to Baton Rouge Thursday and plans were announced for an extensive series of concerts to be given in this area Feb. 14-22.

It was the Up With People group that attracted enormous nationwide attention with the unique half time show at the Superbowl game, and some of the youngsters who participated in that event were here Thursday for a short preview for sponsors of the upcoming concert series. The group is being brought here by WRBZ, with the help of several patrons, Dow Chemical, Kleinfelder Farms Dairy, Sears and National Supermarkets.

Some 40 concerts will be performed, climaxed by a grand finale in the LSU Assembly Center on Sunday, Feb. 22, at 8 p. m.

The group will perform in both the Old State Capitol and the State Capitol, the Baker Civic Center, the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital at Carville, Earl K. Long and Our Lady of the Lake Hospitals, Morgan City Municipal Auditorium, West Baton Rouge Community Center, at numerous schools and institutions, in shopping centers, and on a plantation educational tour. It will be the most extensive single tour in the history of the group.

While performing in the South Louisiana area, the young people will be guests in the homes of residents of the area.

People and Events

Fellow warriors on plastic plants will be interested to know that the future looks dim for those in the State Capitol corridor, and that they may be totally eliminated in the near future. Perhaps some miraculous circumstance will provide a suitable ornament of some kind for the area one of these days.

Two members of the LSU music faculty, Henry Faust, bass, and George Walter, piano, will present a lieder recital on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 8 p. m. in the Union Colonnade. The program will consist of songs by Schubert and Wolf, both masters of the lieder form. The program will include Schubert songs from his youth, the pessimistic "Der Liermann" and the dramatic "Aufenthalt."

The entire second half of the program will be devoted to the music of Wolf, whose songs reflect the influence of the German romantic composers.

The National Theater Company production of "Tom Sawyer" will be presented Monday through Wednesday at 9:30 a. m. and 12:30 p. m. each day at Lee High auditorium. The afternoon performance is a time change from the previously announced 1 p. m. Ticket information is available at the Arts Council, 343-0115.

The Foundation for Historical Louisiana will hold a preservation symposium Friday and Saturday at St. James Episcopal Church Parish House, with Elizabeth Callis, special lecturer from Colonial Williamsburg, Va., as guest speaker. Registration for the symposium begins at 9:30 a. m. Other speakers will be David Pruett, furniture restorer, and Christopher C. Friedrichs, landscape architect for the Parkway and Parks Commission in New Orleans and for Gallier House and Hermann-Grima House in New Orleans.

The Baton Rouge Arts Council has prepared a working draft for the coming months, incorporating the ideas produced by the recent series of BRAID meetings. These meetings brought together representatives of all phases of creative activity in the community and the Council is working toward putting some of the suggestions into practice.

Bill Ernst, talented technical director of the Baton Rouge Little Theater, was seriously injured last week when he fell from the top of the set and was caught on a lower portion of the set. He suffered multiple fractures, but reportedly is already making plans for the set for the next Little Theater production from his hospital bed.

Soprano Marjorie Madey, tenor Rev. Patrick Maloney and pianist Milton Hallman presented a benefit concert at Our Lady of Mercy Church auditorium Friday night, sponsored by the church choir.



Joni Mitchell

Canadian Songbird To Appear

Joni Mitchell, the Canadian songbird who gained popularity in this country too, will make an appearance Thursday at 8 p. m. in the LSU Assembly Center.

Born in Ft. McCloud, Alberta, Canada, Miss Mitchell says she was inspired by Lambert Hendrix, Ross and Miles Davis, and Bob Dylan.

This is a return performance in Baton Rouge, where she has sung before to large crowds.

Sponsoring her performance here is the LSU Union Pop Entertainment Committee.

Tickets are on sale at the Union box office and at Goudchoux's.



AT JAMBOREE — Andy Petrere, who lives in Baton Rouge but travels across the country for festivals and weekend dances, will be the caller for Square Dance Night next Saturday at the Old South Jamboree, Highway 190 at Walker. Also featured on the program will be the Bluegrass and Gospel Carriers, doing bluegrass music between tips. The program is scheduled from 7:30 p. m. to midnight.



WITH GLOBETROTTERS — Salvador Murillo and Ulises Reyes, appearing with the Harlem Globetrotters here Feb. 2, are masters of the age-old art of balancing. Included in their act is a finger-stand in which one man rests upside-down on a single finger poised on the tip of a single finger of his partner's outstretched hand. The Globetrotters are scheduled for one performance only, Feb. 2 at 7:30 p. m. in the LSU Assembly Center. All seats are reserved and tickets are available at Goudchoux's, the LSU Union box office and the Assembly Center box office.

Local Film Focus

The Hindenburg

By TERENCE ADAMS

"The Hindenburg," now at the Broadmoor Theater, is this year's offering from the Universal Studios Disaster Film Factory.

This year we must sweat out the recreation of a true life misadventure — the 1937 explosion of a giant German dirigible landing with a full load of transatlantic passengers. Rather than the usual group of faded Hollywood actors and faceless rejects from television normally found in these epics, the true star of "The Hindenburg" — the balloon — has been "dead" for almost 40 years.

THE IMPRESSIVE climax of the movie was derived essentially from actual newfilm of the fiery 30-second crash, and it is compelling footage.

Not content to merely soak up the heavy-handed irony of an airborne "Ship of Fools," showing the diverse innocence of those stumbling towards World War II, director Robert Wise opts for soap opera melodrama. The speculative premise is that a Milwaukee clairvoyant has a vision that the pride of the Nazi airship fleet would be sabotaged over New York City.

The Germans assign Luftwaffe Colonel George C. Scott to supervise security on the luxury zeppelin. Through some clairvoyance of his own, Scott decides that a young crewman, William Atherton, actually is a saboteur, but he can't figure out where the bomb is hidden.

Atherton senses that the Colonel, a veteran of the Nazi bombing of Guernica, really hates Hitler and will aid in the destruction of the airship, as a demonstration of anti-Nazi sentiment. Not only does the Colonel comply; he apparently ignites the bomb himself. Unfortunately for the anti-Hitler movement, Scott is holding the bomb when it goes off.

THOUGH OBVIOUSLY made in the studio and with miniatures, there was considerably less shaky plywood and cardboard evident on the Hindenburg than is usual in these disaster films.

Although the star of the picture is the airship, it's kept under wraps until the final scenes. The only description of the scale and essence of the giant dirigible is done with newsreel film. Rather than use the possibilities of elegant space and crisp decadence inherent in such a luxury ship, the set designers' interiors look like boring motel rooms, or the dull blue-grey of an "Airport 75" jetliner.

The acting is pretty blue-grey as well. Anne Bancroft is a hop-head Baroness fleeing Germany; Gig Young an alcoholic ad man wiring business messages in code. All have essentially cameo roles, and no part is very poorly played, except William Atherton's — his screen persona might be called Pained Somnambulism.

By distracting us with a totally unbelievable melodrama, the director is able to stall for time until he can run that crash film clip. We have little interest in the cardboard characters who spend the film pointing at icebergs and muttering ominously about concentration camps and secret rocket labs.

IN THE THEATER lobby there are several old newspapers headlining news of the actual disaster. Those breathless accounts underscore the paucity of drama and style in the film, which finally gets moving only when

they crank up the newsreel footage at the end.

Yes, there might have really been a bomb on board, although it was never proved. One could have hoped for a somewhat shorter fuse, since without a quick explosion, this film is merely flatulence.

CINEMA SUMMARY

"Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" — Mel Brooks' funnier brother Gene Wilder. Rated PG at University Cinema.

"Gone in 60 Seconds" — Steal 'em and crash 'em demolition derby. Rated PG at University Cinema.

"Jaws" — There's still a few teeth in the old shark yet. Rated PG at University Cinema.

"Hustle" — Burt Reynolds and Catherine Deneuve in a low-down crime drama. Rated R at University Cinema.

"Dog Day Afternoon" — Al Pacino holds off the police and holds up this New York bank robbery film single handedly. Rated R at Bon Marche.

"Lucky Lady" — Gene Hackman, Liza Minelli and Burt Reynolds make strange partners as Roaring Twenties bootleggers. Rated PG at Bon Marche.

"Walt Disney's True Life Adventures" — Highlights of Disney's

fascinating nature films. Rated G at Broadmoor.

"The Hindenburg" — Drama in the high air on the world's largest passenger balloon. Rated PG at Broadmoor.

"Peepers" — Natalie Wood with Michael Caine as a 1940s private eye. Rated PG at Gordon Theater and North Park Cinema.

"The Black Bird" — George Segal plays the ghost of Humphrey Bogart as detective Sam Spade, and loses. Rated PG at Robert E. Lee.

"Penthouse Playgirls" and "Swinging Models" — Rated X at Varsity.

"Russ Meyer's Supervixens" — Rated X at Regina.

"Let's Do It Again" — Sidney Poitier, Bill Cosby play with comedy dyn-o-mite. Rated PG at the Paramount.

"Life and Times of Grizzly Adams" — An all-family animal adventure up in the tundra. Rated G at the Hart.

"Challenge to be Free" — Another all-family animal adventure up in the tundra. Rated G at the Robert E. Lee.

"Angella" — Sue Lyon is back, or did she ever leave? Rated R at the Robert E. Lee.

"Where the Red Fern Grows" — Rated G at the Robert E. Lee.



Theater Display

Ask Dick Kleiner

By DICK KLEINER

DEAR DICK: Could you explain what the movie ratings mean, and do you think they are a good thing. G. JORDAN, Pueblo, Colo.

The Motion Picture Association rates films and gives them either a G (all ages admitted), a PG (parental guidance suggested), an R (restricted; under 17 requires accompanying parent or guardian), or an X (no one under 17 admitted). Yes, I think the idea of rating films is a good one. The problem, of course, arises in the administration of any such program. You can't weigh a movie on a scale and say it weighs such-and-such, therefore it's a PG. The judgment must be made by a man and men are fallible. Within those limits, I approve of the rating system — but I wish they'd let me do the rating.

DEAR DICK: I recently saw a film of the late '30s called "Stanley and Livingstone." The actor who portrayed Stanley looked familiar but I couldn't place him. Who was he and is he still alive? F. MILLER, Lethbridge, Alta., Can.

This letter really astounded me. The actor in question was Spencer Tracy. And this person says he "looked familiar but I couldn't place him." Don't tell me Spencer Tracy is being forgotten already (OK, I won't tell you — but he's being forgotten already.) He died in 1967.

DEAR DICK: What brand is the S.W.A.T. van? Also what brand are the Emergency' trucks? AL BREWTON, Monroeville, Ala.

The S.W.A.T. group drives around in a Metro, which is a truck made by International, while the Emergency' squad has a Dodge vehicle, although it has been modified for TV.

DEAR DICK: Recently I heard a very good song by Janice Ian. I wonder if you could give me a list of her albums. VICTOR M. DE BARLETTA, Dorchester, N.B., Can.

From what I can find out, Miss Ian had made three albums, to wit: "Between the Lines" and "Stars," both for Columbia, and "Present Company" for Capitol.

DEAR DICK: I have heard that Pat

Boone and Jimmy Dean are brothers. Is this so? Also that Gardner McKay and Charles Bronson are brothers. Is this so, too? JOE MEDEIROS, Manteca, Calif.

Untrue. Untrue. DEAR DICK: I am a fan of Rich Little, and I've been wondering if he ever recorded a tape with his impressions in a cassette form. MICHAEL HARRISON, Mobile, Ala.

Little tells me two of his albums, recorded as albums, have been turned into cassettes and released in that form. The two are a Mercury release called "Politics and Popcorn" and a Caedmon release, "W.C. Fields For President."

DEAR DICK: I am a little girl. My name is Lisa Cawthorne. Can you tell me Elton John's address and his telephone number. Please, I like him. LISA CAWTHORNE, Fairhope, Ala.

I am a big boy. My name is Dick Kleiner and if there was anybody I'd tell Elton John's address to, it's you. But I have a rule — don't tell addresses. Write to recording stars in care of their record company. Write to TV stars in care of their network. Write to movie stars in care of the studio that released their last film. It wouldn't be fair to print stars' home addresses. OK? His record company's address is MCA Records, 445 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

DEAR DICK: I was shocked when I found out Howard Cosell's show was cancelled. Why was it cancelled? Also I heard that one of the characters in Barney Miller was going to have his own show. Which one? S.W., Kenner, La.

Cosell's show was cancelled because nobody watched it. Including me. I watched it once and that was plenty. About Barney Miller, it's the character of Fish (Abe Vigoda) who is being considered seriously for his own show.

DEAR DICK: Could you please tell me who played the part of Gunga Din in the movie of the same name that starred Cary Grant. I say it was Sam Jaffe. Am I right? K. JARVIS, Stockton, Ca.

Right on the button. Jaffe played the title role in that memorable '39 film.