

Rugantino

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

RUGANTINO. — The first by David Asson, 3731 Starbuck, moderns. He has crossed the Atlantic. He has broken all records and set for nearly two years but the plot is a masterpiece of the modern. He has broken all records and set for nearly two years but the plot is a masterpiece of the modern. He has broken all records and set for nearly two years but the plot is a masterpiece of the modern.

Only one gift has the gentleness to wipe the frown of insult. At the very beginning, through a dead cat through a window onto a coffin around which the family are praying and later on when the Prince invites Rugantino to supper, a footman serves him a platter with a roast cat. "May I have some mouse sauce," asks Rugantino — the best line.

When an outraged husband discovers Rugantino in his wife's bed-chamber, he breaks the rogue's thumb — a big laugh! A very popular comedian, Aldo Fabrizi, plays the part of the Roman executioner with jokes about head chopping; his little son is the proud owner of a toy guillotine. The real guillotine appears in the final scene when Rugantino takes the blame for killing his husband. His head is supposed to roll off the guillotine.

The costumes are the traditional ones of opera; the music and choreography are gay but not inspired; the sets of Trieste are gorgeous. The one innovation is a translation of the Roman slang shown on a white strip under the proscenium arch. This courtesy cost the producers infinite time and trouble but in future the quotations, it seems to me, should be shorter to do not distract the audience from the plot.

JOE. — At the other pole from Rugantino is "JOE," a very small musical based on Little Women with book, lyrics and music by Don Park and William Dyer, which later on should be a fair gift for non-professionals. Charming production, it is sung with fervor and freshness by Karin Wolfe and Don Stewart, with all the characters well defined. Its only difficulty is that Act I is so unusually pleasing that it makes it difficult for Act II to do better.

THE PASSION OF JOSEPH. — Fyodor Chayevsky has worked too hard over his drama of the Russian Revolution. Research smothered his muse. It opens with the return of political prisoners from Siberia where Stalin studs a friendly guard, remarking "When men fight for democracy, it usually means that they need their neighbour's boots," which he draws off his victim's feet.

To the girl who worships him as her hero, he says he has no need for women that he got used to having a God in the Seminary and is making one of Lenin. Otherwise, except for the memory of the love he bore his first wife, Stalin is pure brute. Trotsky is shown as a dandified clown and is given a song and dance with the party members. Only Lenin is given the celebration scene in the Kremlin; Lenin is a paralytic completely disillusioned with the Revolution which he tells his wife has left the people worse off than before.

All the lower classes really aspire to be the upper classes. He is also disgusted with the callous cruelty of Stalin to the people and to Mrs. Stalin and strips him of all his offices and power. But even as he speaking Lenin has another seizure. "His stroke is my stroke of luck," gloats Stalin.

Mr. Chayevsky has said that the play has been influenced by Brecht but it is really a jumble of different styles with an occasional song chorus with music.

JOSEPHINE BAKER. — Last summer in the lovely part of France called Dordogne where medieval castles crown the hills that shelter the caves with the prehistoric paintings were shown a castle belonging to Miss Baker which is the home of the eleven children of various race and color whom she has adopted. It made Miss Baker's show all the more colorful that it was to help support her children. Miss Baker calls her costumes "complications" but is very accommodating about appearing in more complications for her audience whose friendship she seeks and enjoys as does Chevalier so soon as she steps on the stage.

She loves to say she is sixty because she doesn't look it. She tosses fruit and even a cabbage into the front rows and soon has everyone clapping in rhythm. Geoffrey Holder and the Arid dancers appear between her songs in five languages and her stupendous costumes. Sociologists may understand theories but French music hall singers understand people — and love them. A reciprocal friendship.

Lenten Play Available

The Rochester Repertory Company announces the availability of a one-act Easter play entitled "Decision at Dawn" for groups and organizations in this area during the Lenten season.

This play, lasting about 30 minutes, takes place chiefly in the hour before sunrise on Good-Friday morning and has three main characters, Mary Magdalene, Judas Iscariot and Lucius Silvester, the Centurion who crucified Christ.

The cast, prepared to perform in any place under any conditions, is under the direction of Aglene Fanale who has produced the recent Christmas shows, "The Night the Angels Sang" and "The Jade Necktie" and last year's Easter show, "The Scarlet Robe" (see various church groups. Those interested contact Mrs. Fanale at HU 2-1003 or write 1701 Winton Rd. North.

Legion Of Decency

Class A—Section 1
Yank in Vietnam, A
Class A—Section 2
And Suddenly It's Murder
Class A—Section 3
Flight from Ashiya
Class B
Psyche 59
Objection: Suggestive costume, dialogue and situations.
Sunday in New York
Objection: Presented as a sophisticated romantic comedy on the subject of premarital sex. The film frequently resorts to feeling sensationalism in its treatment. Moreover, because of an ambiguity arising out of a failure to correlate what is seen with what is stated in an off-screen narration, the conclusions of the film tends to be rather evident pretense at a moral resolution.

Theatre Guide

- MONROE**
Mistreatments of Merita Jones A-1
- RIVERIA**
Tom Jones A-4
- LITTLE**
Ladies Who Do A-3
- CINEMA**
Irma LaDouce B
- PARAMOUNT**
Summer Holiday A-1
Invincible Gladiator Not Rated
- REGENT**
Love with the Proper Stranger A-3
- FINE ARTS**
The Cardinal A-3
- LOEW'S**
A Global Affair A-3
- PALACE**
A For Texas B
- WARRING-LYKELL**
Palm Springs Weekend B
Sixty Hours A-2

MUSIC THEATRE will present "Little Mary Sunshine" at Nazareth College on Feb. 29 and March 1 at 8:15 p.m. with Patty Heberger, left, as Nancy Twinkle, and Kathy Hanlon as Little Mary. Proceeds will go toward the proposed fine arts building.

Disc Notes

From Paul Contestabile



Refreshing individuality abounds in the new release, *Cocktail Hour*, with Stanley Paul and his trio. Starting to play at the age of four, Stanley Paul organized his first professional group in his early teens and while still in his 20s was the acclaim of audiences across the country.

The album includes original interpretation of melodies from Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Lorenz Hart and Loewe; a pleasing classical interlude offering a beautifully modern approach to Greg. Chopin and Tchaikovsky standards like Bill Bailey, Mean To Me, The Trolley Song, How About You; and relative newcomers such as I Left My Heart in San Francisco and What Kind of Fool Am I?

Known as The Showman of the Piano, Stanley Paul quickly sets the mood in this Coral release. Highly refreshing and entertaining.

The music of Sammy Kaye remains irresistible year after year and he lends an invitation to dream along as the lush instrumental arrangements weave a magic spell in his release, *Dreamy Serenade*.

Distinctive tempo and tunefulness provides smoothly danceable music with strings supplying a lush and lavish backdrop. The featured trombone adds a pleasing muted jazz beat as it rides upward over the singing strings.

Included in the album are *Dream, Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams, Dream Love, Drifting and Dreaming, I Had the Craziest Dream, Street of Dreams, Girl of My Dreams* and others. A fine assortment of dreamy and danceable music, that is further enhanced on the stereo version.

Nina Simone at Carnegie Hall has been recorded by Colpix Records in an assortment of music that goes from the wildfulness of *The Witch of Never* to the bitter-sweet melancholy of *The Theme from Bayou*. A brilliant recording that is stunning in impact.

Philips Records has recorded authentic performances in the Congo of the Miss Loka, a Negro song in pure Congolese style, and native songs of Africa. It is sung by Les Troubadours Du Bas Basoulou.

The Miss Loka is pure Congolese, composed of authentic native dance rhythms. It is completely impressive. None of the Miss Loka has ever been written down. The rhythms, harmonies and embellishments are all totally spontaneous improvisations.

The native songs tell of the life and customs of everyday life in the Congo. Songs of mourning, of work, of grief and of joy. All sung by the choir of joyous Congolese rhythms accompanied by the native drums.

The world-famed Les Troubadours Du Bas Basoulou are directed by Bishop Sheehan Series To Start

Vienna Symphony Set At Eastman

Out of Europe's most distinguished symphonic ensembles, the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, will perform in Rochester on Monday, March 2, at the Eastman Theatre.

This is the orchestra's first American tour. The Vienna Symphony will visit the principal cities of the United States and Canada during its two-week tour in North America.

The orchestra, to be led by its brilliant young conductor, Wolfgang Sawallisch, will perform Mozart's Symphony No. 41 (Jupiter), and Bruckner's Symphony No. 5.

Tickets for the Vienna Symphony's Rochester concert are now available at the Eastman Theatre box office.

Prepare For Children's TV Show

Enjoying a breakfast before going under the hot lights of the breakfast set are the Rev. C. E. (Gene) Adkins, Jamie Wheeler, Marie Gee, Billy Sutte, and Joe Long. The program is seen each Saturday at 8:30 a.m. over WROC-TV, Channel 3 in Rochester. Although it is intended primarily for children from nine to 11 years of age, it appeals to all children.

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Little Mary Sunshine

The Rochester Music Theatre Association presents the Rochester Music Theatre production of "Little Mary Sunshine" on Feb. 29 and March 1, it will be sponsored for four members of the company.

Director Nancy Gray... Miss Heberger plays the maid, and Richard Mancini, her corporal. The character roles go to Cyndie Grantham and Robert Hyde. India roles will be played by Dore Kravitz, Carl Edge and Harold Ten' Norbut.

THE SHOW is called "a new musical about an old opera. It concerns the ever-beguiling, ever-singing Little Mary Poppins and her marvelous attempts to maintain the marriage on her Colorado Inn by selling her homemade cookies. Then there is Capt. "Big Jim" Warrington, in charge of a troop of stalwart Forest Rangers, who divides his time between keeping the forests safe, and wooing Little Mary.

Mary's maid is Nancy Twinkle, who is being pursued by Corporal Billy Jester. Two guests at the inn are Madam Liebedich, an ex-pro singer from Vienna, and General Fairfax, a retired Army officer. If you add a berry of proper young ladies from a finishing school, match them with an equal number of handsome Rangers, and stir a few awarded good or bad Indians into the plot, you have the basis for one of several Jeanette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy movies, which is precisely what the author, Rick Boegly, had in mind.

Miss Hanlon, Little Mary, is presently a vocal music teacher at Victor Central School. She starred in "The Boy Friend" for Music Theatre, and was also in "The Music Man".

Capt. "Big Jim" will be played by Harold Reitz, last

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