

# Rugantino

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

**RUGANTINO:** — The first by David Annam. Will Steven modern Italian musical to cross the Atlantic. Rugantino has sailed to us from Rome where it broke all records and ran nearly two years but the pleasures of adventures of the rogue, the play's advantage. The cast is so large, and the production so expensive that there is already a possibility of an early closing which is not the fault of the play.

**JOSEPHINE BAKER:** — Last summer in the lovely part of France called Burgundy where medieval castles crown the hills that shelter the caves with the prehistoric paintings we 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 be supported by her children. Miss Baker called her costumes "complications" but is very accommodating about appearing in more complicated costumes for her audience whose friendship she esteems and enjoys as does Cheyette so soon as she steps on the stage.

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 Fabiani, 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 to please his mistress, takes the blame for killing her husband. Her head is supposed to roll as the curtain falls.

The costumes are the traditional ones of opera; the music and choreography are gay but not inspired; the sets of Grand Opera are ponderous; the only 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 so as not to attract too much attention from the actors. Nino Manfredi and Oriella Vanzoni are Rugantino and his love. I love Italianna and love Rome but I don't love Rugantino.

**"40"** — At the other pole from Rugantino is "40" a very small musical based on Little Women with book, lyrics and music by Don Parks and William Dyer, which later on should be a fairly gift for non-professionals. Charmingly produced, it is done with verve 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.

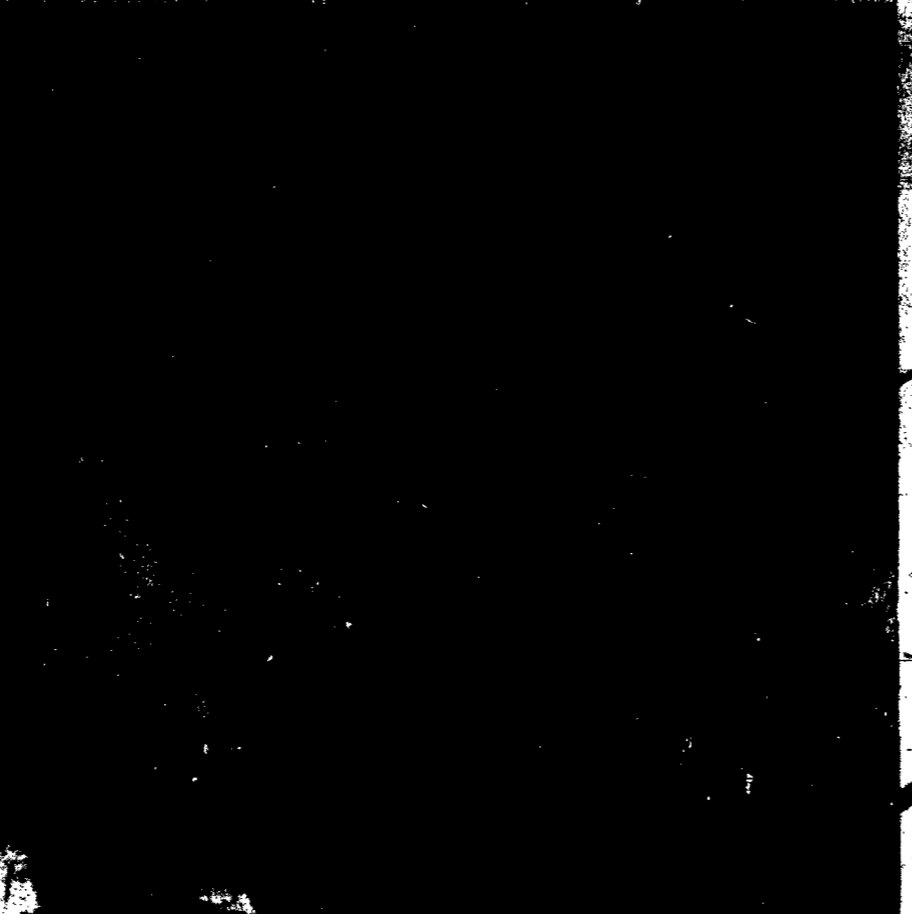
**THE PASSION OF JOSEPH D.** — Paddy Chayevsky has worked too hard over his drama of the Russian Revolution. Research smothered his muse. It opens with the return of political prisoners from Siberia where Stalin states a friendly guard, remarking "When men fight for democracy, it usually means that they need their neighbor'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 dandy in a glow and is given a song and dance with the party members. Only Lenin is given celebration and some conscience. In the last 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 his offices and power. But even as he speaking Lenin has another seizure. "His stroke is my stroke of luck!" glots 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 sung chorus with music.

- Family Rosary**  
Friday, Feb. 21 — George Mandery, Holy Rosary.
- Radio Program**  
Friday, Feb. 21 — George H. Seck, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester.  
Saturday, Feb. 22 — Mario Ferrari, St. Margaret Mary.  
Sunday, Feb. 23 — George H. Seck, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester.  
Monday, Feb. 24 — Father John Glogowski, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester accompanied by Junior Sodality of that parish.  
Tuesday, Feb. 25 — Michael Macaluso, St. Augustine accompanied by Better Men's Club, Canby, St. Andrew's accompanied by St. Andrew's accompanied by Holy Name Society of that parish.  
Thursday, Feb. 27 — Joseph Cahill, St. Monica accompanied by employees of Rochester Products Division.
- Theatre Guide**
- |               |                                 |    |
|---------------|---------------------------------|----|
| MONROE        | Misadventures of Merlin Jones   | A1 |
| RIVIERA       | Tom Jones                       | A4 |
| LITTLE        | Ladies Who Do                   | A2 |
| CINEMA        | Ima LaDouce                     | B  |
| PARAMOUNT     | Summer Holiday                  | A1 |
|               | Invincible Gladiator Not Listed |    |
| REGENT        | Love With the Proper Stranger   | A3 |
| FINE ARTS     | The Cardinal                    | A3 |
| LOEWS         | A Global Affair                 | A3 |
| PALACE        | A For Texas                     | B  |
| WARNING-LYELL | Palin Springs Wedding           | A2 |
| Stiles Room   | Stiles Room                     | A2 |



**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. Friends will go toward the proposed fine arts building.

## Disc Notes

**From Paul Constantino**

Refreshed individuality about the new release, *Central 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 20's won the acclaim of audiences across the country.

The album includes original interpretation of melodies from Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Leroy and Loewe; a pleasing classical interlude offering a tasteful 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 Let My Heart Be San Francisco and What Kind of Fool Am I?

Known as The Showman of the Show, Stanley Paul, who sets the mood in the 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 Serenades*.

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

Included in the album are *Dream, Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams, Dream, 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 Philips Records in an assortment of music that goes from the wistfulness of The Swiftness of Never to the bitter-sweet melancholy of the theme from *Sayonara*. A brilliant recording that is stunning in impact.

Philips Records has recorded authentic performances in the Congo of the Missa Luba, a Mass sung in pure Congolese style and native songs of Africa. It is sung by Les Troubadours Du Rue Baudouin.

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

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## Vienna Symphony Set At Eastman

One 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 5-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 Beethoven's Symphony No. 3.

Tickets for the Vienna Symphony Rochester concert are available at the Eastman Theatre Box office.



**Prepare For Children's TV Show**

Enjoy a breather before going under the hot lights of the Breakthrus set as Rev. C. E. (Gene) Adkins, Janie Wheeler, Marie Gee, Billy Sulte, and Long. The program is seen each Saturday at 8:30 a.m. over WROC-TV, Channel 8 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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## Music Theatre Lists 'Little Mary Sunshine'

When the Nazareth College Alumnae Association presents the Rochester Music Theatre production of "Little Mary Sunshine" on Feb. 29 and March 1, it will be a homecoming for four members of the company.

Both director and director Suzanne Wignall alumnae, as is Kathy Hanlon, who is cast in the title role. Another performer, Patty Heberger, is presently a junior at the college.

This is the group that offered "The Music Man" last fall at the Eastman Theatre. The staff for this more intimate type of theater is almost the same. In addition to the two directors, Thea Blacere is choreographer, and the production is designed by William Andia.

Costumes for this show have been designed and executed by Ginny Deane and Antonio Ferrara.

THE SHOW is called "a new musical about an old opera." It tells the story of Little Mary Sunshine and her marvelous attempt to maintain the mortgage on her Colorado Inn by selling her homemade cookies. Then there is Capt. "Big Jim" Washington, in charge of a troop of stalwart Forest Rangers, who divides his time between keeping the forest 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 Adam Lieberich, an ex-opera singer from Vienna, and General Raleigh, a retired Army officer. If you add a bevy of proper young ladies from a finishing school, match them with an equal number of handsome Rangers, and add a few assorted good old dad Indians into the plot, you have the basis for one of several excellent Jettisoned McDonald-Nelson-Eddy musicals, which is precisely what the author, Rick Bergman, had in mind.

Mrs. 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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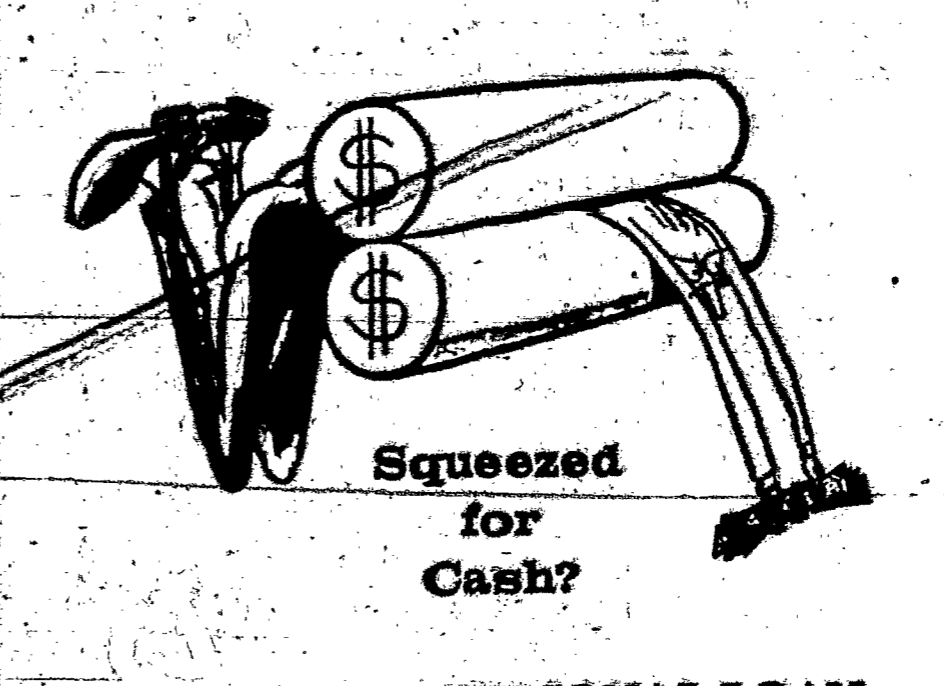
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