

Theater News

High Spirits

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

HIGH SPIRITS — Miss Brice Lillie has returned to us as Madame Arcati, the Medium created by Noel Coward in "Billie's Spirit," whose control, little India girl, still has a touch of the "medium" as climactic as ever in materializing the first wife of an author called Condomine, who finds the situation distinctly embarrassing for himself and his second wife. Although only visible to Condomine, Elvira, the ghost, makes her presence felt in many veering ways.

In the play, Elvira was a statuesque beauty, with crimson lips, but hair, face and draperies all grey. Tammy Grimes, Elvira is now a small, dangerous pixie, floating about in Peter Pan's fashion, with the search for mischief. Her hair is bright yellow and her tresses, costume, designed by Valentina, is palest yellow fading into palest grey. As for Miss Lillie's costumes, they baffle description from the flowing red trousers and high boots for the bicycle to oriental extravaganzas for her Inner Circle Coffee Shop.

When she arrives breathless for dinner, she removes her boots, unclips her trousers which swing into a skirt and puts the clips on her arms as bracelets and, of course, Miss Lillie wears rows and rows of long beads. A ballet has been composed for bicycles as Madame Arcati pedals warbling to her scenes with a very lively chorus and Halloweenish romp, "Go Into Your Trance," for the Coffee Shop.

On the roof of the Groves Hotel in London, Elvira, weaving through the air among the dancers, divides partners in rhythmic confusion and persuades her husband to jump off the terrace. Edward Woodward brings his experience in comedy to Condomine, his duet with Louise Tory, Mrs. Condomine, "If I Gave You" being far the most charming song of the season.

Elvira has a patter song about the spirit world in which the Priscian called Freddie rhymes with Mary Baker Eddy—a lapse in good manners—but Miss Lillie commencing for a full ten minutes with her Olja Board is worth in itself a whole ticket. Noel Coward has directed a continuously delightful show. High praise is the composer of an excellent score.

FUNNY GIRL — "If a Girl Isn't Pretty" is the question answered in this musical about the comedienne, Fanny Brice, and also for a girl called Barbara Streisand who stole the show with one song in the now forgotten "I Can Get It For You Wholesale" and who is still a star and the cover girl for Time. She deserves it too because in reviving the story of Fanny Brice, Miss Streisand proves her talents. "Nicky Arnstein What a beautiful name" murmurs Fanny on meeting the notorious gambler and she breaks a contract to marry him.

Faithful to Arnstein through bankruptcy and a jail sentence, he is leaving her as the curtain falls. With sumptuous sets by Robert Randolph, there are two statuettes of Elizabeth Folliott, the last one with Fanny as a "doughboy" in spectacles amid the splendor. There is also a gay dance in Henry Street outside of Miss Brice's saloon, Mrs. Brice being no other than Kay Medford with Margaret Stapleton as her neighbor, Mrs. Strakosh. Sidney Chaplin is like Arnstein. Julie Styne composed the score; Carol Huxley the dances with Jerome Robbins as supervisor and Garson Kanin as director.

THE SEA GULL — "I am mourning for my life—I am unhappy" is the second line in the play yet Chekov thought that he viewed life rather gaily and gave full credit to his countrymen for thoroughly enjoying their unhappiness. The scene, a Russian countryhouse, presents a group of egoists. Iris, the great actress, who gives her brother and her son no share in her luxurious life in Moscow, has come to pay their a visit with Trigorin, the

popular novelist who sees life only as copy for his stories.

He lures Nina, the lovely young neighbor to Moscow to betray her with the same willingness which prompted Trigorin to shoot down the splendid seagull. Chekov offers full measure of talk and frustrations but the talk is pithy and apt in characterization and the wit penetrating particularly so when Evie Le Gallienne is Izina, Denham Elliott, Trigorin and Anne Meacham, Nina. A finely rounded performance by the National Repertory Company.

THE ESTABLISHMENT — Straight from London with local political comments, The Establishment is housed in the Strangers Theatre Club which serves such succulent British dinners as Beef and Kidney Pie, Roast Beef, etc. and I am, sad at confessing that the dinner seemed juicier than the show. Part one is the "Muller Report," embellished with screen pictures and ballet in which a bewigged judge fathers facts as ingredients for any needed government whitewash.

Part II includes interviews with such varied celebrities as Mrs. Johnson, the Queen with her crown set on haircurlers broadcasting for BBC; Frau Braun, a German scientist in Egypt, who protests against speaking of the extermination of six million Jews. "It's not true," she asked. "Nine million. And let's not talk of the last war—think of the next one!" Peppered with irreverence, the Establishment is a stepchild of Beyond the Fringe without fringe benefits.

SPONOONO — A play by Alan Paton, with haunting native chorus which take place in a reformatory for black boys near Johannesburg where the British Principal takes a kindly interest in Sponoono, who is a Christian spirit forgives the bully who has nearly blinded him. Counting on the same forgiveness when he steals, Sponoono rebels against punishment and turns against his once idolized mentor.

In a dream sequence at the end, Sponoono, in feathered panty as judge in a tribal court, accuses the Principal of not living up to Christian precept as his brother's keeper. The Principal finally pleads "Guilty." Mr. Paton seems to be saying that we are responsible for our black brothers a full twenty times seven. The play and its cast come directly from Dorkey House, a non-European theatre in Johannesburg.

Music Festival Dates Listed

Dates for the 34th annual Festival of American Music have been announced by Dr. Howard Hanson, director of the Eastman School of Music and founder of the festival.

All events will be free to the public, but tickets will be required for those in Kilbourn Hall. These will be available at the office of Robert F. Sattler, concert manager, Eastman School of Music, 26 Gibbs St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Mail orders will be accepted if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Dates and attractions are:

Monday, April 27 — Eastman String Quartet, with Ernesto Lejano, pianist; Kilbourn Hall, 8:15.

Tuesday, April 28 — Chamber Music Program; Kilbourn Hall, 8:15.

Wednesday, April 29 — Eastman-Rochester Orchestra, Dr. Howard Hanson, Conductor; Kilbourn Hall, 8:15.

Thursday, April 30 — Eastman Wind Ensemble; Dr. A. Clyde Heller, Conductor; Eastman Theatre, 8:15.

Friday, May 1 — Eastman Rochester Orchestra, Dr. Howard Hanson, Conductor; Kilbourn Hall, 8:15.

Family Rosary Radio Program

Friday, April 17 — Robert Schantz, Sacred Heart Cathedral accompanied by Third Order of St. Carmel.

Saturday, April 18 — Charles Schott, St. Plus X.

Sunday, April 19 — Donald K. Booth, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester.

Monday, April 20 — Ronald Timmons, Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Tuesday, April 21 — A representative of Holy Cross College Alupini.

Wednesday, April 22 — A representative of St. Andrew's Holy Name Society.

Thursday, April 23 — A representative of Rochester Products Division employes.

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Supper, Dance to Aid School

BUFFET SUPPER AND DANCE sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. James Deisenroth April 19 at the Hospitality House on Penfield Rd. will benefit Holy Childhood School. Discussing plans are from left Mrs. Karl Schlegel, co-chairman; Mrs. James Deisenroth; Mrs. William Young, chairman; and Mrs. John Grady; tickets.



Four of the principals in the two act musical comedy "Miss Blue Eyes" being put on by the Annunciation Youth Club are from left: Richard Brown as Franklin Farnsworth; Joseph Salamone as Reynolds Ryan; Judy Steffer as Fay Farnsworth and Carol Saturno as Harriet, a maid in the home of the Farnsworth family.

Annunciation Group Lists Musical Comedy

Annunciation Youth Club will present its second production, "Miss Blue Eyes" on Sunday and Tuesday, April 19 and 21 at 8:15 p.m. in the church hall at 1754 Norton St.

A musical comedy in two acts, "Miss Blue Eyes" tells the story of a charming young lady named Fay Farnsworth who becomes very interested in a young stage and radio star, Reynolds Ryan.

Six fine comedy roles are provided in the persons of Mr. Smith, a man who is perpetually sleepy and his wife, Mrs. Smith; Mr. Brown, an eccentric old man, and his blustering maid sister, Araminta Brown; and Mr. Jiggs, who stutters humorously and his wife, Mrs. Jones.

William F. McCarthy, a member of the Aquinas Institute faculty, again directs the play. Moderator of this youth group is Rev. William Brian, assistant pastor. Miss Virginia Ehrstein, at the organ, will accompany the production. Joseph Volpe is the stage designer for the play.

Joseph Salamone has been cast in the leading male role as Reynolds Ryan while Judy Steffer portrays the leading female role of Fay Farnsworth. They are ably supported by Richard Brown, Linda Parisi, Randy Ferraro, Joyce Polychaty, Philip Terrana, Linda Pioli, Patrick Castronova, Kathy Coyle, Guy Berrett, Judy Brown, John Colombo, and Carol Saturno. The chorus consists of Carmen Beretta, Judy Brown, John Co-

Nazareth Glee Club Concert Set

A variety of songs from Brahms to Cole Porter will be sung by the 125-member Nazareth College Glee Club at public performances this Saturday at 8:15 p.m. and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. A special performance for Sisters of the diocese will be given Thursday at 8 p.m.

Dr. David Fetter will direct the Nazareth Glee Club. The Bernadettes, a small choral group composed of Nazareth students and the St. John Fisher College Glee Club under the direction of Donald Meninger will also perform.

South American Films
Films on "Argentina" and "Venezuela" commemorate Pan American month in the Sunday Family Program at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Sunday, April 19, at 2:30 p.m. and again at 4:30 p.m.

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New Chamber Orchestra To Debut April 23

A new professional orchestra, to be known as the Rochester Chamber Orchestra, with Dr. David Fetter as conductor, will make its bow this month. It will be associated with the Monroe Community College, where the first concert is scheduled for April 23, with Millard Taylor, concertmaster of the Rochester Philharmonic, as soloist.

The orchestra is the creation of a committee of musical and professional people. Dean James Walsh of the college was one of the early promoters of the project, and two other members of the college staff, Willford Crawford and John Trevisian, are members of the committee. Others are Elliot W. Gumaer Jr., Joseph Fricano, Robert Farnley, Rev. Peter Sheehan of St. John Fisher College, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beales, Westley Houghes, Kurt Bloomenfeld, and Mrs. Howard J. Anderson who is chairman.

The committee plans four concerts a season and will be so arranged as not to interfere with the regular Philharmonic season. Membership of the orchestra of approximately 30 will be drawn mainly from members of the Rochester Philharmonic.

It is hoped that as the Community College expands the orchestra will be able to bring fine chamber music, with special emphasis on the classics, such as Handel, Bach, Haydn, and Mozart to people who otherwise would not be concertgoers.

Dr. David Fetter received his conducting training at the Juillard School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, and with Pierre Monteux. For over 8 years he has been associated with the Eastman School of Music, is conductor of the College Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, and Singers of the Eastman School.

Concerts planned thus far will be in the Community College auditorium, 410 Alexander St., but others may be given in other auditoriums. A movement for small orchestras, playing a special type of program, is making progress in this country and abroad.

Millard Taylor received his musical training at the Eastman School of Music and with William Kroll of New York City. He was concert master of the National Symphony Orchestra of Washington, D. C. for 6 years, and has been concertmaster with the Rochester Philharmonic since 1954. Taylor is not only well known in the Rochester area, but throughout the country as an outstanding soloist.

At the opening concert Taylor will be featured in the Mozart Concerto N. 4. Other works will include Symphonies in Bb by Johann Christian Bach, Albinetti and Fugue for Strings by Allan Hovhaness, and the "Pavane" Suite of Stravinsky.

COURIER-JOURNAL Thursday, April 16, 1964

Legion Of Decency

The following are the titles of the films reviewed this week to be used in their respective classification of the Legion of Decency April 16, 1964.

Class A, Section 2
Bulleit for a Badman
Class B
Of Human Bonds
Class C
Of Wayward Love

Objectives: "This film tends to compensate for its weakness in credible character motivation by exaggerating the sensational aspects of its story development."

Objectives: "This film, an amoral trilogy, whose subject matter includes marital infidelity, seduction and illicit sex, in its treatment is grossly suggestive and pornographic."

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