

Theater News

Shakespeare Plus

By EUPHEMIA WYATT

Othello—As played by James Earl Jones in Central Park, the Moor is obsessed by his passion for Desdemona and seems more a great lover than a great General. Undoubtedly the genius of Shakespeare had intuition of the racial insecurity felt even by the biggest brass of Venice when up against the blond good looks of a Castile.

A man of simple courage who evidently had never before been conscious of any jealousy and who judged men by their fighting ability, Othello was almost too easy a mark for Iago's cunning or what is shown of it by Mitchell Ryan who may readily be the worst Iago in stage history. A tough ape of a villain, this Iago forswears all felicities of character and inspires a hearty laugh every time an "honest Iago" is mentioned.

After snatching Desdemona's handkerchief from his wife, Mr. Mitchell glowers about the stage with it, even putting it on his head.

The forthrightness of Sada Thompson's Emilia, Iago's wife, is in keeping with her mark. Juliana Maria as Desdemona is very young and very charming but not perceptive enough to sense the danger signals of Othello's jealousy when she keeps on speaking of Castile. She has a painful struggle with Othello at the end for he smothered her with no pillow but strangles her with his bare hands. He dies with her in his repentant arms.

Perhaps Shakespeare overwrote the death scene; it seems very long in the present production, directed by Gladys Vaughan who has not been very zealous about distinct diction in her cast.

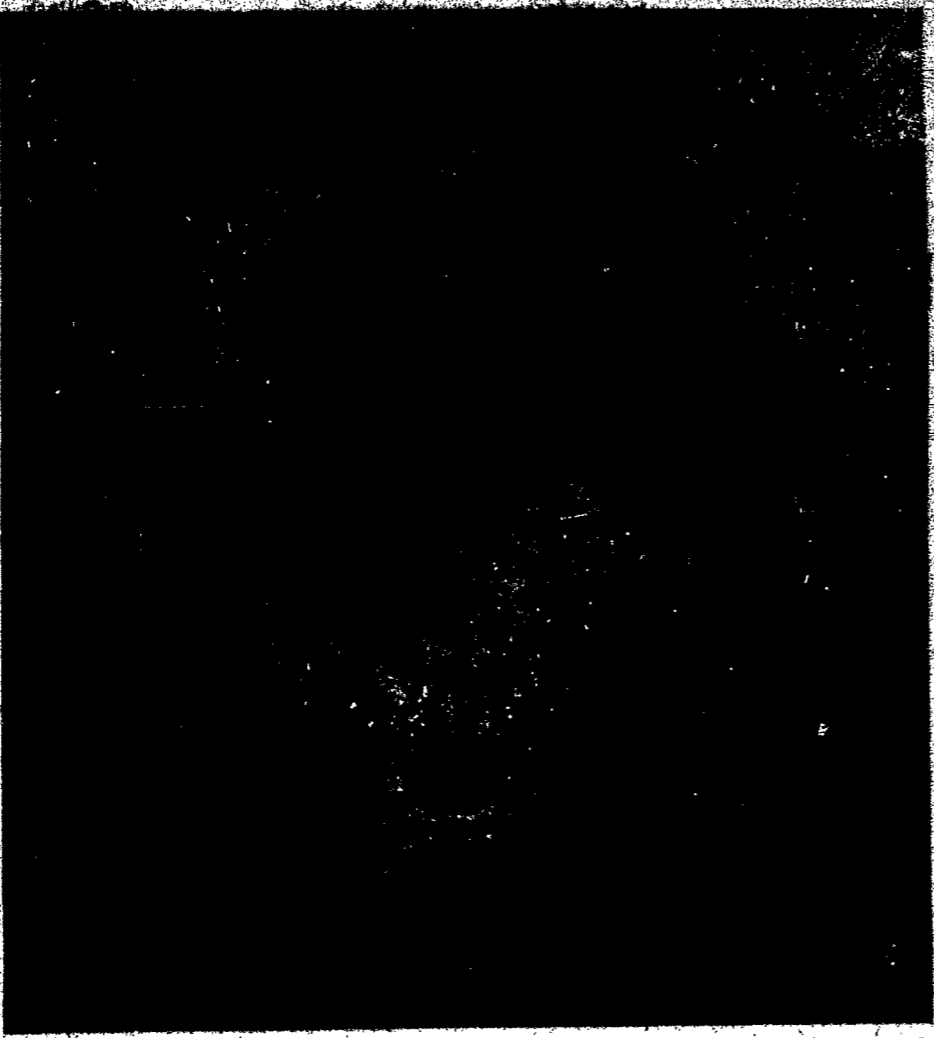
MUCH TO DO ABOUT NOTHING—Written last year at Stratford, Connecticut, the play was Colonial Texas with Spanish costumes, with Katharine Hepburn as a frontier Senorita and Francis Drake as a Cavalier. Up at Stratford, Ontario, nineteenth century Italy offered opportunity for dressing up Hero and Beatrice in the elegance of busies. The current production has now reverted to Jacobean dress with its large lace collars and full breeches.

The decor is very simple but the garden scene is particularly effective and centered on a very stylish golden tree against a peacock blue background. There is also some golden shrubbery through which Benedick and Beatrice cavewalk on their feet, discussing how madly in love each is with the other.

Miss Hepburn had one bobble around under a small table; Miss Jacqueline Broderick, crouches under the parrot but the men earn more laughs than is deserved as the Governor, Douglas Watson, as Don Pedro and mostly to the Benedick of Philip Bosco.

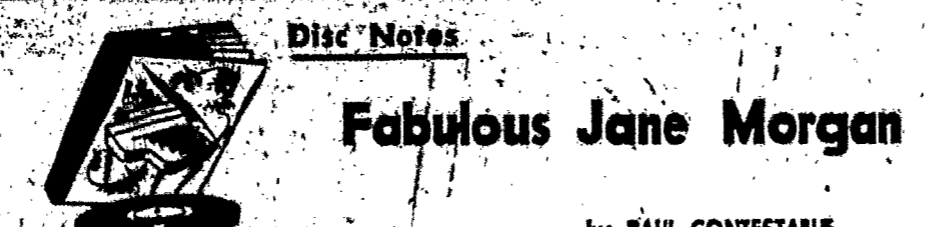
Frank G. Conroy is a good looking Claudio but it is as hard as ever to forgive his insulting treatment of Hero. Rex Everhart as Constable Dogberry leads his Watchmen in zips comedy and Patricia Percillon is a rarely pretty Ursula.

All in all it is a gay and charming evening whether one visits the excellent restaurant just north of the theatre or eats a picnic dinner on the lawn by the river. The American Shakespeare Festival Theatre is ninety minutes from New York on the Turnpike. Buses also leave for Stratford from Broadway.



Blackfriars To Stage Puppet Show

ANNUAL THEATRE PROGRAM for children by Blackfriars will be presented Wednesday and Thursday, August 5 and 6 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. in Memorial Art Gallery, 490 University Ave. A new version of the puppet show, "Punch and Judy," will be produced by Mary Connie Comfort show along with her children, Martin and Howard. Admission is 50 cents. Information on special group rates may be had by calling Mrs. Comfort, GR 3-7985.



Fabulous Jane Morgan

by PAUL CONTESTABLE

Jane Morgan has just recorded a new album for Colpix Records called The Last Time I Saw Paris. Miss Morgan has always been regarded as a great artist who conveys the true meaning of a song, but in this album she surpasses even her best work of the past. The album is a true emotional war-

Switching with ease from French to English, the record offers to gimmicks, just superb singing. And to add to a tremendous vocal performance is an outstanding musical background. All in all, this is a record for everyone.

Miss Morgan gives a bossy new treatment to "O-Get It On" and offers such other great numbers as Under Paris Skies, Dominique, Autumn Leaves, The Four Embers of Paris and La Vie En Rose.

It would be hard to pick a "best" song on this album since they're all great. But we might say that the "best of the best" is The Time Is Now. Miss Morgan rounds out the record with Once Upon A Summer, Darling, The Last Time I Saw Paris, Pettis Chanson and If You Love Me, Really Love Me. A feat for the ears.

GROOVY GOODIES is another album released by Colpix featuring some of the top recordings of the past two years. Sure to be a hit with the teenager set, the LP includes Shelly Fabare, million-seller, Johnny Angel, and Sandy Stewart's My Coloring Book, which spent many months on the best-selling chart.

The Marcell offer Blue Moon, a hit with great impact that sold well over a million, and the Ronettes present their best seller, The Memory.

Rounding out the list of top artist and their recordings are Freddie Scott doing Hey Girl; James Darren with two numbers Goodbye Crazy World and Her Royal Majesty; Paul Peterson with My Dad, which rounded to number three on the best-seller lists, and Lollipop and Roses; The Girlfriends with My One and Only Jimmy Boy; Teddy Randazzo with Big Wide World; and The Maidens with I Gotta Drive.

The Chad Mitchell Trio, long a favorite among folk antho-

Sound Of Music Set At Playhouse

The Sound of Music, eleventh and last of the great musical comedies by Rodgers and Hammerstein, will be the Aug. 4-9 attraction at Town and Country Playhouse, in the sleekly-tilted East Rochester High School Theatre.

For 43 months, from Nov. 1958 (eight months prior to the untimely death of Hammerstein), to its closing in June, 1963, The Sound of Music was one of Broadway's biggest smash hits. Its plot more or less follows the real life story of the von Trapp family, who fled from Hitler to become a beloved group of folk singers in American concert halls.

The family cast consists of an aristocratic Austrian father, seven motherless children and a courageous convent-nun who becomes the children's governess, teaches them the joys of singing and helps them to escape the Nazi threat. She wins the hearts of the children and eventually the heart of their father.

Embellishing this warm, light-hearted tale are some of the most memorable tunes in the abundant Rodgers and Hammerstein song bag. These include the rousing Climb Every Mountain, a wistful My Favorite Things and a touching song for the children called Do Re Mi.

Co-stars will be Mimi Turquoise and Lawrence Brooks, both of whom have impressive theatrical backgrounds.

At Town and Country Playhouse through Aug. 2 is the comedy hit, Enter Laughing, starring Lynn Bari, Billy Gray and Alan Mowbray.

Fire Enkindles Brotherhood

Manhatten, N.Y. — (NO) — Flames that destroyed a Greek Orthodox church six months ago have long since cooled, but the warm glow of good fellowship arising from the kindness of neighbors still remains.

Since the fire at St. Paraskevi church, 400 Greek Orthodox families from the north shore of Long Island have been attending services at St. Peter's Lutheran church in Huntington Station.

Now they are transferring to St. Patrick's Catholic parish here. Greek Orthodox services are expected to continue in the parish until completion of a new St. Paraskevi church next door. Reason for the change was the desire of the Greek Orthodox to have their services on Sunday mornings rather than Sunday afternoon, as was necessary at the Lutheran church.

Views in English

Atchison, Kan. — (NC) — For the first time in the 106-year history of St. Benedict's abbey, eight young Benedictines took their vows in English during a ceremony (July 12). The use of English follows the Vatican council's ruling in favor of the vernacular.

The dances all feature activity by all couples at once rather than the former method where only one couple was active at a time. Whether veteran square dancers or beginners, you are sure to enjoy this one. Songs include Sweet Georgia Brown, Pennsylvania Polka, The Best Things in Life Are Free and Just Because.

Fabulous percussion is the keynote of the latest Nina Simone album Folkly Nina. Nina does a magnificent job on The Twelfth of Never and adds a fine performance on Hush Little Baby, Silver City Band and Erets Zavat Chalav. Fine listening.

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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. Clip and save.

Class A — Section I
Hard Day's Night, A
Class A — Section III
Where Love Has Gone
Class A — Section IV
Lullaby

Observation: This film set in a mental institution, deals with the thin line between sanity and insanity. The subject matter may be shocking and disturbing to many viewers. The treatment, at times realistic, is dramatically integral to the telling of the story.

Note: An A IV classification is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require caution and some analysis and explanation for protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions.

Class B
Americanization of Emily, The
Object: This serio-comic film, depicting a phase of life of the armed forces, tends to endorse extramarital sex and tasteless and obnoxious in its representation of numerous suggestive sequences.

Object: The virtue of purity is ridiculed throughout this film because of an unmitigated emphasis on gross suggestive in costuming, dialogue and actions.

Catholics Hit Abortion Plan

San Francisco. — (NC) — Catholic spokesmen voiced the only opposition to a bill to legal California's abortion law during hearings here by the State Assembly's committee on criminal procedure.

Catholics attacked the proposal on moral, legal and medical grounds. But support for the measure came from other religious groups, as well as representatives of the State Department of Public Health and the California Junior Chamber of Commerce.

The bill would legalize abortions for women pregnant as a result of rape or incest or in cases where there was a risk that either mother or child would suffer grave impairment of physical or mental health. Physicians would be authorized to set up boards of five doctors to decide whether or not an abortion should be performed.

Present California law permits abortion to save the life of the mother.

Family Rosary Radio Program

Friday, July 31—Paul Imhof, St. Andrew's.

Saturday, August 1—Dr. Bernard Euglis, St. Anne's (Mass to be celebrated).

Sunday, August 2—Chester Power, Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Monday, August 3—A representative of St. Thomas More Club.

Tuesday, August 4—A representative of the Third Order of St. Dominic. (Mass to be celebrated).

Wednesday, August 5—John L. Heuck, Jr., Sacred Heart Cathedral accompanied by Catholic War Veterans Post of that college.

Thursday, August 6—Robert Schantz, Sacred Heart Cathedral accompanied by members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society of that parish.

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