

## 4 Comedies Scheduled In New Theater Series

The new "Playbill" theater series — featuring four hit Broadway shows performed by professional touring companies from the New York stage — has been announced for Rochester's 1970-71 theater season.

All four shows — comedies "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" and "Forty Carats"; the musical "Zorba"; and the witty, ironic fantasy "Hadrian VII" — will play in the Auditorium Theatre, according to Thomas Iannoccone, president of Original Performances, Inc., (OPI).

OPI, a non-profit firm that started operation early this year, has taken over and expanded the same attractions formerly brought to Rochester by the Civic Music Association. The CMA, now concentrating solely on promotion of the Rochester Philharmonic, will continue to receive the net income from OPI attractions.

Iannoccone noted that "the aim in presenting the Playbill series is to offer Rochester audiences the best of Broadway with a variety of subscription prices that will make professional theater 'affordable' for young couples — as well as seasoned play-goers."

The plays and dates:

"Zorba" — Sept. 18-19 — The smash Broadway musical that tells the sometimes-funny, sometimes-bittersweet story of Zorba the Greek, the man who makes his own code for life.

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers" — Nov. 11-Nov. 14 — Neil Simon's four-character comedy.

"Hadrian VII" Feb. 13 — A witty, ironic fantasy, based on a real-life recluse — Frederick Rolfe — who dreamed of be-

coming the first English Pope since the 12th century. The story introduces us to Rolfe as the cold and hungry tenant of a poor London lodging. His only possession: his own novel

about Hadrian VII, an imaginary English Pope. In a stunning transition, this fellow Rolfe is somehow taken into Holy Orders, and then to Rome, where the Cardinals elect him

Pope.

"Forty Carats" — March 13 — If one regards age as diamonds, not years, then "Forty Carats" aptly describes the 40-year-old heroine of this funny show.

### PAPERBACKS

Cincinnati — (RNS) — St. Anthony Messenger, the popular, 77-year-old national Roman Catholic monthly published here by the Franciscan Fathers, has launched a paperback book division.

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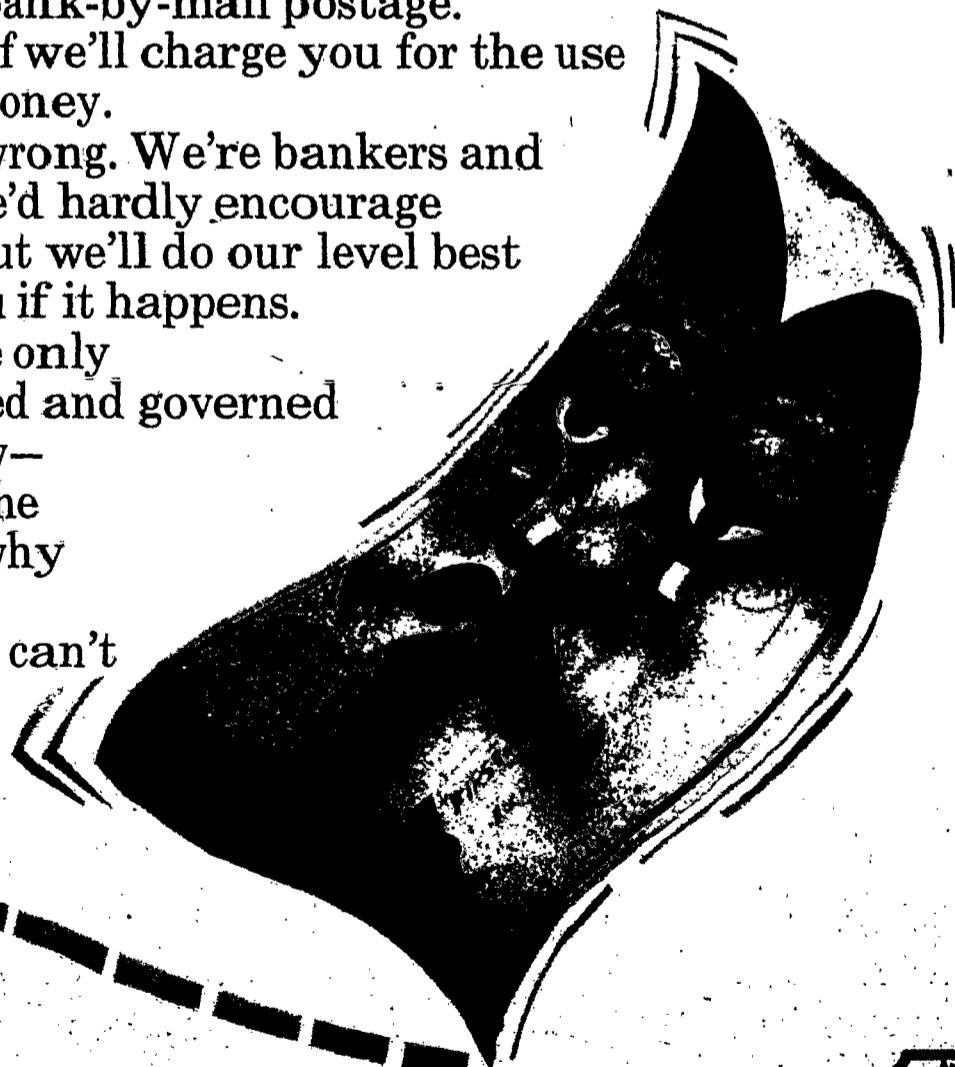
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## Films Score As Philadelphia Teaching Aid

Philadelphia — (RNS) — The use of the motion picture as a teaching aid in religion courses in parochial schools here has increased rapidly.

"Kids are turned on much faster by a visual image than by a story or a poem," said Charles E. McClelland, a junior high school teacher who has been running weekly film screenings this summer at La Salle College for religious education teachers.

Faced with a situation where the Roman Catholic religious education has become less a matter of memorizing doctrine and dogma and more a matter of reflecting on life and human values, the growth in the employment of films is considered a natural evolution.

"I'd say, just off the top of my head, that film use has gone up 300 per cent over the past couple of years in parochial school religious education," Father Francis X. Meehan claimed.

The religious education coordinator for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia said that thousands of films are used every year. The all-time favorite, he said, is "The Parable," the motion picture made for the Protestant Pavilion at the New York World's Fair.

Mr. McClelland, in discussing the uses of film, said that "Silas Marner" has been replaced in the 10th grade curriculum by a 30-minute film by Robert Enrico called "Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge."

"It's based on a Civil War story by Ambrose Bierce," he related. "A man is about to be hanged, and in the last minute his life flashes before him. The students really respond to the idea that you don't appreciate life until it's threatened."