



Danny Kaye as Noah in "Two by Two."

This Noah is A-O-Kaye

New York — Danny Kaye is Noah?

You better believe it. Nearly all the Broadway critics did, and the 57-year-old Kaye's performance as the 600-year-old builder of the Biblical Ark has helped make Two by Two one of the hit productions of this season.

When Richard Rodgers decided to produce a musical based on the Old Testament story of the Flood, he hired himself to write the music — an understandable move — and Kaye to play the lead: a surprising move.

What surprised critics more is that Kaye plays and sings the Noah role "straight" — that is, without the clowning and tongue-twisting enunciations that originally brought him fame when, for example, he once stole a Broadway show from Gertrude Lawrence by rattling off the names of 54 Russian composers in 39 seconds.

Although Kaye's performance drew nearly unanimous raves from the critics, the musical itself drew mixed notices — ranging from Time Magazine's calling it "arch, vulgar, lumbering, stale" to the Associated Press' decision that Two by Two is "one of Richard Rodgers' finest musicals."

However, William R. Inge, critic for the Newhouse chain of newspapers, expressed the view of a number of in-between critics when he suggested that Two by Two is "an intelligent musical, striving to be more than simply another song and dance show."

He saw it as "a character study of Noah, his unbending belief in God and his conflict

BARBWARE THEATRE IN 'THE CAGE'

The Cage, a prison drama written by a lifer and directed and acted by a group of ex-convicts, will be presented in the Monroe Community College Little Theatre at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12.

After the 80-minute performance, the actors will engage the audience in discussion of pertinent topics. The troupe is called The Barbwire Theatre.

The play was written by Rick Cluchey while he was serving a life sentence for robbery and kidnaping. Public performance of it helped Cluchey gain his release to life parole in 1966, at the age of 33, after he had served 12 years in San Quentin prison.

Courier-Journal

with his more worldly and questing son, Japheth." In the "book" of the musical, written by Peter Stone and adapted from a Clifford Odets play called The Flowering Peach, Noah is a simple, God-fearing chicken farmer who talks casually with God.

Indeed, when the Deluge is over and the Ark has reached dry land, Noah tells God he refuses to leave until the two have agreed to a covenant. In lyrics written by Martin Char-nin, Noah declares in a conversation with God:

"I've got a proposition here I know you will acclaim / You don't destroy the world again, we won't forget your name."

God, as He does throughout the musical, responds in rumbles of thunder and visual images that are flashed on a backdrop with a slide projector. For example, when God wishes Noah to sit down earlier in the musical for a conversation, a chair is flashed on the screen.

There are several underlying themes running throughout Two by Two. One of them is symbolic: At the start of the musical, Noah is 600 years old, but after he receives his assignment from God more than 500 years drop off his age and he becomes — as one of the songs says — Ninety Again. Critic John Chapman of The New

Family Sunday At Holy Name

Parishioners of Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece will celebrate a Family Sunday on Jan. 17.

Two breakfasts are scheduled for families on that day at Cardinal Mooney High School. They will follow the 8 and 9:30 a.m. Masses. Sponsoring the program is the parish Men's Club.

KEARNEY PARENTS PREPARE SHOW

The Parents' Club of Bishop Kearney High School is preparing a musical variety show to be presented in February as a money raiser for the school's emergency tuition fund.

The fund is for students who lose supporting parents.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER PARTY

The Sacred Heart Cathedral Rosary Guild will give a mother-daughter party Monday evening, Jan. 11, at 7:30 in the school hall. Members of the Holy Rosary Guild and their daughters will be guests.

York Daily News suggested that Noah "becomes a comparatively young man because there is so much to do."

There is also an "anti-establishment" theme in the musical, represented by one of Noah's three sons, Japheth, who refuses to believe that God should destroy the world for any reason. Besides, he argues in a song titled When It Dries, human beings will only contaminate the world again: "Isn't it a miracle — a brand new world begins / Think of all the fun we'll have, inventing brand new sins."

As I See It

New Acclaim For Burton

By Pat Costa

Heretofore, I had always looked upon Richard Burton as just another pretty face, actor of some repute, possessor of timber-shivering voice and hus-band of Elizabeth.

But after a Christmastide special that also featured Audrey Hepburn, Shirley MacLaine, and Florence Henderson among others, all of whom I did not see or hear, I think Burton is worthy of added acclaim—that of writer.

A memory of a Welsh boy-hood Christmas was sheer poetry.

"Are you sure that's Burton and not Dylan Thomas," asked my viewing companion also mightily impressed.

Written originally as a magazine article, the piece proved that the actor is at least as good and maybe better than Truman Capote at conjuring up memories of holidays past.

Burton's story dealing with his eighth Christmas centered around a "gift" — a squalling new-born niece.

The telling alone was surely as magnificent as anything television had to offer this holiday season, nostalgic and warm and intensely personal.

Tune in for a look at the

"American Dream Machine" which begins tonight (Wednesday) at 8:30 p.m. on Channel 21. Twenty programs, underwritten by the Ford Foundation to the tune of \$2 million, are planned for the "magazine" type program.

The show will include interviews, sports features, drama, some live coverage and news stories on various aspects of American life.

For example coming up is an interview with Joe Namath, a mini-musical on computer dating, a sketch on marriage written by Joseph Bologna and Renee Taylor, authors of "Lovers and Other Strangers" and featuring Richard Castellano from the same hit movie, sex-oriented ads in medical journals and a visit with Gov. Reagan.

I'd been wondering what had really happened to Laurence Hugo who plays Mike Karr on "Edge of Night" who disappeared from the scene in September. The script says he is doing crime commission work in "Capital City." My best soap opera authorities tell me, however, that he is involved in a Broadway show for a duration of at least six months.

Thus, it just goes to show that there really is some good talent hidden away in those soapers.

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