

On The Set

by Jack Tell

"THAT CERTAIN GIRL"
There could not have been a more opportune time than right now to present a play about a Jewish boy in love with a Gentile girl.

With news of Israeli victories dominating the headlines, with the tensions and apprehensions slowly ebbing past, and with the entire populace imbued with a spirit of jubilation, what better moment to bring forth a drama, not only delightful but also in setting and subject most attractive to Jews and those allied in spirit and thought?

"That Certain Girl" is a modern version of "Abie's Irish Rose" set to music. Most of the wooing transpires via long distance telephone, which gives opportu-

ity for a couple of pesky phone operators to smooth the rough spots in the courtship. The stage is split with the maiden's duplex California apartment at the left, and the boy's Bronx living room on the right. In center, raised, is the telephone operator's booth.

Michael Callan and Gunilla Hutton, play the boy and girl roles with emphasis, sincerity and strong voices. Their moods are reflected with excellent dancing bits to break up their telephone songfests.

Walter Slezak and Billie Lorraine are the parents of the Jewish lad, who refuse to consent to their son marrying a "shiksa" -- until they meet the girl -- then give qualified approval

if she'll convert. Slezak's lines, interspersed with much Yiddish, are delightful throughout and moma's fainting at the drop of a "Golscha" expression (make gefilte fish with shrimp) are highlights and provide the curtain drop.

The girl's parents, not too upset at the prospect of a mixed marriage for their daughter, are portrayed by Virginia Mayo and Dennis O'Keefe. Miss Mayo, the understanding mother, charms her husband into consent with her own inimitable style of dancing, while dad, a military man, is more concerned with his daughter marrying a civilian than his being of another religion.

Each time the marriage plans hit a snag, the snooping phone operators, Billie Bird and Joyce Stanley, play cupid to set the path straight.

"That Certain Girl" is in its world premiere, prior to opening on Broadway, and should keep the Thunderbird Hotel theatre - restaurant jam-packed during its 12-weeks stay. Its new, its novel, its refreshing. Its a must-see for lovers of the drama, especially every Jewish family that visits Las Vegas.

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