

ENTERTAINMENT TRIP AROUND THE WORLD



DICK MCINNES

Theatergoers in Los Angeles are going bananas this month. In addition to the plays that I've already written about, there are three new entries. "Two Gentlemen of Verona", the 1972 Tony and New York Critics Award winner, is showing Ahmanson Theater customers why those awards were given. This "grand new musical" which started out as a production for the Delacorte Theater in Central Park is a super entertainment trip. JONELLE ALLEN is one of the most dazzling performers that I've ever seen, CLIFTON DAVIS has a great voice, and a very exciting stage presence, STOCKHARD CHANNING (I kept thinking of JUDY GARLAND IN "The Pirate" when she first came out) is very good. LARRY KERT in the most uninhibited performance of his career is terrific and FRANK O'BRIEN damn near steals the show as the most outrageous camp character of the year. GALT MAC DERMOT's music, JOHN GUARE's lyrics, DENNIS NAHAT's exciting choreography and MEL SHAPIRO's smooth direction all make "Two Gentlemen of Verona" work beautifully.

Speaking of working beautifully, the master mime MARCEL MARCEAU, along with his partner, PIERRE VERRY, is enchanting audiences, young and old at the Shubert Theatre. Marceau's style pantomimes are all classic examples of that unique art. My favorites were "Youth, Maturity, Old Age and Death", and the

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE "Maskmaker" and two of his Bip characterizations, "Bip At A Society Party" and "Bip As A Baby Sitter". Marceau says that Bip is the little brother of CHARLIE CHAPLIN, the man whom he thinks is the master of pantomime. A reception was held for Monsieur Marceau at the home of the French Consul and although it took Marceau an hour and a half to get there most of the fast crowd awaited for him. Among those sipping the champagne and tasting the wonderful French cooking were JACK and VICKIE OAKIE, SHIRLEY JONES and JACK CASSIDY, MARTIN LANDAU and BARBARA BAIN, STEVE and JAYNE ALLEN, GEORGE TOBIAS, ZINA BETHUNE, TONI HOLT, ANNE BAXTER, LOUIS and ANITA NYE and POLLY BERGEN.

Then along came "Forget Me Not Lane", a new play by PETER NICHOLS which opened at the Mark Taper Forum. I guarantee you won't forget "Forget Me Not Lane". It's a touching, sad, humorous look backward at life in the 40's in England. Ironically, it could have been here in California. Nichols stirs many memories in all of us. JOHN MC MARTIN is, as usual, great; BEALAH GARRICK is superb as the mother; DONALD MOFFAT brilliant as the father; BUD CORT just right as the younger McMartin; BRUCE KIMMEL (every man's best friend when they were a kid) is very good; BETSY SLADE, CHARLOTTE MOORE, and JILL COOKE (the reincarnation of GRABLE and other 40's blondes), all three talented actresses. Set by ELMON WEBB and VIRGINIA DANCY is fantastic and the director ARVIN BROWN deserves all awards. First nighters included MARLO THOMAS and HERB GARDNER, LIZ SCOTT, SHIRLEY JONES, OLIVIA HUSSEY, LESLIE ANN WARREN, JOAN VAN ARK, CAROL LYNLEY, ZINA BETHUNE, JOHN ABBOTT and VALERIE HARPER.

By the way if it's beginning to sound like I like everything, I do like everything that's good and that what L.A. has been getting lately, the very best.

HAIFA -- The establishment of the Samuel Neaman Institute of Advanced Studies at the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology - was announced by Alexander Goldberg, President of the Technion.



DIANE ELLIOTT, BEAUTIFUL LANDMARK SONGBIRD, ENCOURAGES SKYTOP RENDEZVOUS PATRONS TO DANCE AS SHE PRESENTS A LARGE REPERTOIRE OF DANCEABLE AND LISTENABLE TUNES -- BACKED BY THE SUPER SOUNDS OF THE CHARLIE SHAFFER TRIO, NIGHTLY FROM 9:30.

BONN (WNS) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban has declared that Israel would not support East Germany's admission to the United Nations even if she stands alone on the issue.

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