

Theatre Wing

By EARL CALLOWAY
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Emphasis on black art has produced nationalistic pride in the works of Negro artists, and has introduced a new breed of ethnic poets, actors and musicians. According to some, the Negro with his "black nationalist movement" is setting himself back some 50 years. Such a view is not shared by the majority, nor by this columnist. Ethnic nationalism should be developed.

While the Negro is gaining considerable opportunity in many areas of art, he has neglected his own creative genius. He often fails to support his own artists, who must depend upon the "white structure" to open opportunities for many who succeed.

A new day dawns, he now looks with pride upon his origin and seeks to magnify his heritage. Such a view is entirely different from black power. This is the reason why the Farragut High School Drama Club, Chicago, presented Lorraine Hansberry's play, "A Raisin in The Sun" in two performances earlier this month.

The characters are representative of several generations of Negroes in America and centers its story around a poor ghetto family on the Southside of Chicago. The play won for Miss Hansberry the New York Critics Award as the best play in 1964. The title was adapted from a poem by the late Langston Hughes:

What happens to a dream deferred
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the Sun?

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JOE LOMUTO will present performances of his new show, "What Do You Call a White Uncle Tom," at The Door, The Root and at other Coffee Houses in the Windy City.

Lomuto used material from the writings of Baldwin, Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti, Cummings, Yvetushenko and Eliot.

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SEVEN YOUNG Negro student-actors studying at Goodman Theatre, Chicago, are appearing in the second portion of Genet's "The Balcony," a drama of power and sexuality which features Jay Lanin and the British actress Delphi Lawrence.

These young actors radiated freshness and uncommon vitality in the revolution scene of the second part of Genet's play. Dewey Chapman, Charles Solomon, John Anderson, William Mack, Leonard Norris and Benny Watts also knew how to interpret in an impressive manner of power and imagination.

Goodman's next production will feature Murray Matheson as one of the stars in George Bernard Shaw's "Caesar and Cleopatra" which opens Friday, Jan. 12. "Caesar and Cleopatra" will be staged by Broadway guest director, Warren Enters.

James Earl Jones has been signed to star in Goodman's production of Shakespeare's "Othello" for a three and a half week engagement beginning Feb. 16.

Movie credits for Jones include "Dr. Strangelove" with Peter Sellers, and "The Comedians" with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor. On Broadway he has been seen in featured roles in "A Hand Is On The Gate," "Infidel Caesar," "The Cool World" and "Sunrise at Campobello" with Ralph Bellamy.

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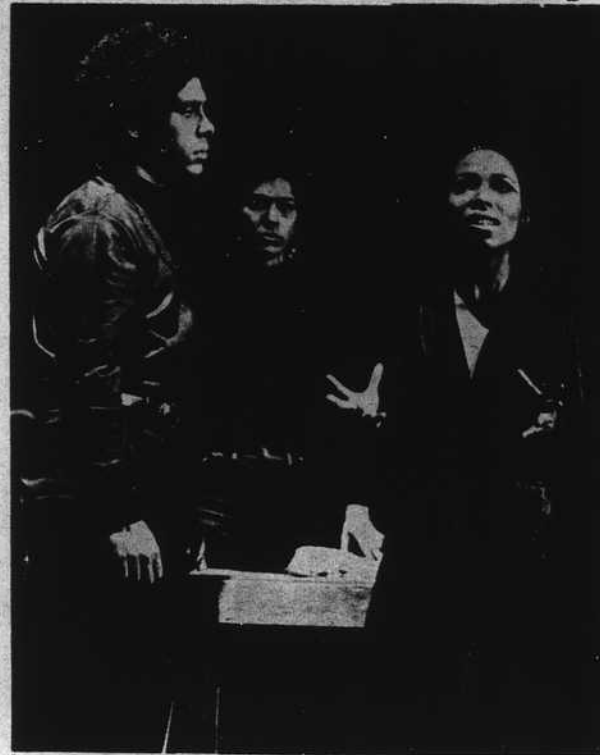
THE FREE Southern Theater is continuing its program of workshops in acting, creative writing, dance and technical theater in New Orleans.

During its 1967 touring season which included Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and for the first time, Texas, the Company performed Douglas Turner Ward's satirical comedy, "Happy Ending" and its own poetry show comprised of works by Negro authors. The Company also presented rehearsal performances of Eugene Ionesco's "The Lesson."

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THEODORE WARD, famous playwright returned to Chicago and organized the South Side

Scene From "The Balcony"



Charles Solomon (left), Dewey Chapman, and Ramona Austin (right) were featured as revolutionaries in Chicago's Goodman Theatre's production of Jean Genet's "The Balcony" which was performed through December. The production featured British actress Delphi Lawrence with Broadway and Hollywood television actor, Jay Lanin.

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Center of Performing Arts, Inc., in the Joe Louis Theatre. The playwright's award winning play "Our Land" was the featured drama, receiving its midwest premiere after successful performances on Broadway.

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IN HARLEM, the New Lafayette Theatre opened its second season with Ron Milner's production "Who's Got His Own," a powerful soul searching investigation of a black family's experience of what the playwright calls the "Black Thing."

The New Lafayette Theatre is a professional company, professionally directed by Robert Macbeth. This dramatic company is well established and has become important to theatre activity of New York. Its audience is youthful, intelligent and enthusiastic.

Ed Bullins' new play "In The Wine Time" opened Dec. 22 and continues through Jan. 21. "Wine Time" is a part of a cycle conceived by Bullins entitled "The Twentieth Century Cycle" which came from the roots of Negro experience. Bullins is a native of Philadelphia.

Grants from the Ford, Rockefeller and New York foundations, plus contributions from the State's Arts Council and private citizens keeps Macbeth's vision alive. He has \$50,000 to keep his project going and is now setting up a patronage program which will provide free tickets to those who are interested in attending.

ENTERTAINMENT ★★★★★

★★★★★ ★ ★ Hues & Cries

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STRICKEN

PHILADELPHIA - (NPI) -- Internationally famous but controversial singer Paul Robeson last week was stricken with a skin inflammation of his legs and was hospitalized in University hospital. The 69-year-old bass baritone became a controversial figure in America in the 1940s and '50s because of his outspoken views on civil rights and his admiration for Russia.

HOSTS TV SHOW

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - (NPI)--Ken Knight, a native of Daytona Beach, Fla., and a graduate of Hampton Institute in Virginia, has been credited with hosting one of the most popular television shows in Florida. The show, seen on Station WFGA-TV, Channel 12, is called "Ken Knight Showcase" and features personalities in the fields of business, education, fraternal and entertainment.

BUILDS CLUB

CLEVELAND - (NPI)--Cleveland folk singer Tedd Browne will turn impressario soon when a supper club he is building in an abandoned boathouse in the city's industrial flats area is completed. Browne's Red Dog Saloon will feature fine food and entertainment amid quiet decor.

PIONEERING ARTS MUSEUM

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill. - (NPI)--Internationally famous dancer and choreographer Katherine Dunham is pioneering the establishment of a Performing Arts Museum at Southern Illinois University, where she is a professor in residence. The museum, if approved by the school's board of trustees, will be located at the University's East St. Louis (Ill.) center. It will be devoted to the continuation of the Dunham method of instruction.

COMBINES TALENT, BEAUTY

NEW YORK - (NPI)--Barbara Randolph, Negro actress appearing with Sidney Poitier in Columbia Picture's film "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," is a young woman who combines beauty with talent. She is featured in one of the fastest scenes in the picture--a dancing act with plenty of hip action.

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