What's Happening

'Deathtrap'...things not what they seem!

By Ida Peters

There are excellent offerings in Ira Levin's "Deathtrap" at the Mechanic Theatre starring Brian Bedford and James McLure's two one-act plays, "Pvt. Wars" and "Lone Star" now at Center Stage. Both offerings play through Thanksgiving.

Have always wondered why the theatre managers in our town where 60 per cent of the black people live, only make a major advertising push for plays when they have black actors . . . like "Mishehavin'" or Trazana Beverley in "Mother Courage."

They never advertise other offerings such as the current ones. It's only my opinion but black people are interested in all kinds of theatre and not just black shows. I find it insulting and selective when only black shows are advertised on our entertainment pages.

Baltimore's very loyal and knowledgeable theatre fans will find Ira Levin's "Deathtrap" most interesting. Many critics have dubbed it entertaining with chills and laughter.

I happened to view the play on opening night which also was Election Night. Don't ask me why Critic's night this year has fallen twice this yearon primary night, general election night and the crutial game of the World Series. It happened and this reviewers mind was distracted by the rent control battle.

"Deathtrap" which has been running on Broadway two years is written by the man responsible for running through

Brian Bedford, Betty Miller, center and Kathleen Freeman.

"Rosemary's Baby," "Stepford Wives," "Veronica's Room" and "The Boys From Brazil."

"Deathtrap" means just what it says . . . a death trap and none of the chracters are what they seem to be on the surface. Throughout the play we are confronted with surprises of murder, homosexuality, greed and trickery.

What tickled my funny bone was to see the chracters pretend they were after one aim and then we deliciously find they were after something else.

Like Baltimore's Rent Control. Suppose we found that after spending all that money to defeat the Rent Control Bill, the real estate interests were really fighting to get it on the books. That's the kind of confrontations

"Deathtrap." "Deathtrap" opens in Sidney Bruhl's study (Brian Bedford) in Westport, Conn. He has the role of ahas-been playwright who just recieved a manuscript mailed to him by a former student.

He sets the stage by telling the audience "One set. Five chracters. A juicy murder in Act One. Unexpected developments in Act Two.

Brian Bedford is outstanding as the bitchy older writer who hasn't had a good play for 18 years.

Betty Miller is just right as his wealthy unsuspecting wife. Kevin Conroy puts the right "gay" airs on the young naive, seemingly innocent student and George Ede acts like a scared white and red rabbit as the lawyer.

Kathleen Freeman as the ESP expert almost steals the show as the Dutch psychic Helga ten Dorp. She is hilarious and you've seen her on "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "Police Woman" and "Kojak."

William Ritman scenery compliments the action of a rustic October day in Connecticut.

"Pvt. Wars," at Center Stage is a mosaic of short vignettes concerning three inmates of a veterans hospital who tease, entertain and exasperate one another with their respective neuroses.

The second comedy, "Lone Star," derives it's title from the beer of the same name. "Love Star" takes place in mythic Maynard, Texas, behind the infamous Angel's Bar. A hot summer night finds brothers Roy and Ray heatedly discussing the merits of drinking, a 1959 pink Thunderbird, and their distinctly unique views on moral issues. Acute intoxication sets in and "Your Cheatin' Heart" blares from the jukebox.

TALK about creative perseverance, it took Stevie Wonder three years to create his new "Secret Life of Plants" album. The two-record set is scented with a plant fragrance. It has its title on its cover in printed English and also in Braile, and liner notes are written in several languages. And just as different is the music. It is quite possible that Stevie Wonder's latest record album will become the record collector's item of the century, displacing his "Songs In The Key of Life."

'Runner Stumbles'...pretty nun; virile priest

By m Michael Pattersor

What happens when a pretty young nun and an aging, but still virile priest are thrown together in a small, dying town with virtually no one to talk to but each other?

There are several possibilities. "The Runner Stumbles," a new 20th Century Fox release, explores one of them.

"The Runner Stumbles" is a tragic love story that is a must for Catholics and non-Catholics who always wondered what went on behind those drawn shades in church rectories (priest's residences) and convents.

Father Rivard, the aging, sober priest is played by Dick Van Dyke, who while cast in a role that is in sharp contrast to his usual somewhat comical image, manages to fill the role perfectly.

A young and impetuous Sister Rita played by Kathleen Quinlin manages to innocently charm her way into the dull priest's heart before he even realizes what is happening.

However, from the moment Sister Rita arrives at the local rail station in the dismal mining hamlet in which Father Rivard's parish is located, there is the feeling that the couple may become emotionally involved.

This feeling or premonition is helped along the way by the fact that the movie opens with a lawyer agreeing to defend Father Rivard against a murder charge. The victim? You guessed it — Sister Rita.

"The Runner Stumbles" isn't just a love story. It's a shocker in the true sense of the word, a tense drama-mystery that grips the onlocker and keeps him wondering until the very end.

Father Rivard is such a sincere, kind-hearted and typical priest that he seems incapable of the act of murder. He also seems to be incapable of falling in love with a nun.

But he does, and she does and one cannot help but wonder where their forbidden emotions will take them.

Movie buffs of all faiths and creeds will probably find the plot and acting interesting, but it will be Catholic viewers who will truly appreciate the situation and its implications.

Strict rules that date back to the dawn of Christianity govern relationships between Catholic priests and nuns. Nuns and priests seldom, if ever, talk in private without a third party being present. And nuns as a rule do not pay unescorted visits to a priest's residence.

Both nuns and priests take vows of celibacy.

However, Sister Rita, in her youthful zeal, seems to have forgotten the rules and as the movie progresses, Father Rivard seems to grow tired of enforcing them.

The acting is superb. And the plot is something that viewers and members of the heirarchy of the Catholic Church aren't likely to forget for a very long time.

Dailey exhibit at Arena

MacFarlaine Dailey

The exhibitor of several string paintings in the Arena Playhouse lobby during Arena Players, Inc.'s current production of "EDEN" is MacFarlaine Dailey.

A talented artist, Mr. Dailey specialized in fine arts and art education at Morgan State University and at the Maryland Institute, College of Art.

He has taught art at Harlem Park Junior High School for the past seven years. At Harlem Park, this dedicated teacher emphasizes that his students need to discipline themselves by listening and following directions before they can concentrate on drawing.

According to Mr. Dailey, drawing is the basis of everything in art: one must master drawing before he can pursue other disciplines in art. He is currently creating 100 string paintings to assemble his own art show. To date, he has 60 paintings.

Arena Players, Inc. is looking for local artists who wish to exhibit their work at the Arena Playhouse during productions. Interested individuals should call Mrs. Lorraine Brown, the Gallery Coordinator, at 448-4600.

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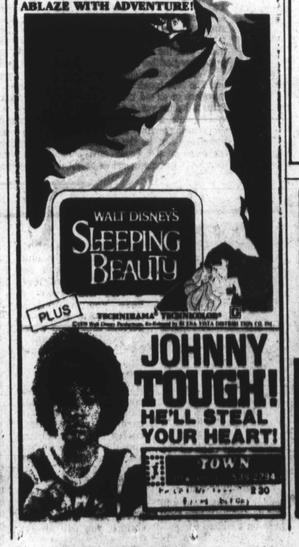

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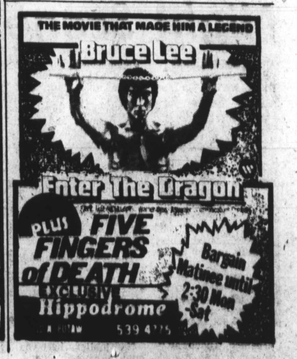

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Bill Lane in Hollywood

Stevie strives to show the interrelation of all life matter, and that human life is interwoven with that of plants. Really, plants and trees are very much like people in annotable way — many plants cannot live side by side with certain other plants, or even in the shade of others.

REDD Foxx has a song to sing. No, it's not about that recent divorce action filed against him by his wife asking for half his life, but this time Redd's recorded an album with the music of Gerald Wilson. On the album the mighty Foxx sings. From what we hear, Foxx does a pretty good job with a song.

HERB Alpert's new "Rise" album is a moving testament of musicianship. And the single "Rotation" from it is getting heavy airplay. But the selection we like most is "Aranjuez (Mon Amour), "which was introduced some years ago by Miles Davis in his "Sketches of Spain" album. But in his version of the tune Alpert incorporates some kinetic Middle East sounds that really sock it to you. And it is to the credit of Herb Alpert that he had the superb talents of musicians Gene Page and Joe Sample working with him in turning out his latest music.

ROBERT Guillaume, star of television's "Benson" shows, will sing again. He first did it on a Mike Douglas show. Now Donna Summer has him singing "Bridge Over Troubled Water" on her upcoming (December 5th) ABC-TV Summer Special telest. . . The Inger City Cultural Center here, which featured recently "For Colored Girls. . ." playright Ntozake Shange in a reading, spotlights (Nov. 17 — Dec. 9) the presentation "Malcolm X; Reminscence of a Revolutionary." . . . Maxine Weldon moved into the Parisi an Room here for a song stay, to be followed by Sonny Stitt and Red Holloway. . . Richard Pryor and Cicely Tyson began filming the Lonne Elder screenplay "Family Dream" in Seattle, with Os Scott directing.

OLIVIA COLE, Cleavon Little, LeVar Burton, Robert Doqui and Madge Sinclair coming up in sharp acting roles in PBS television drama segments of Ernest Gaines' "The Sky Is Gray" and Richard Wright's "Almos' A Man." Both plays are directed by Stan Lathan, and writers were Charles Fuller and Leslie Lee. Filmed in the series, American Short Story, the series will not begin until February 4 of next year, but will be shown then for 17 successive weeks.

Top Jazz Albums

1 STREET LIFE Crusaders
2 8:30 Weather Report
3 MORNING DANCE Spyro Gyra
4 LUCKY SEVEN Bob James
5 RISE Herb Alpert
6 I WANNA PLAY FOR YOU Stanley Clarke
7 WATER SIGN The Jeff Lorber Fusion
8 A TASTE FOR PASSION Jean - Luc Ponty
9 FEEL IT Noel Pointer

Calendar

Theatre

EDEN — Arena Players, Arena Playhouse - Friday, Nov. 16 Senior Choir New Carmel Star Baptist Church, sponsor. Saturday, Nov. 17, Douglass High School Class of 1954. Sunday, Nov. 18 - Dunbar High School, Class of 1950.

DEATHTRAP — The Ira Levin thriller/comedy at Morris Mechanic Theatre thru Nov. 24.

CENTER STAGE — "Pvt. Wars" and "Lone Star" now playing.

VAGABOND Players present "Dolly Baroque" a bawdy musical comedy by Hank Johnson, directed by F. Scott Black, 806 S. Broadway thru Dec. 16.

DEATHTRAP starring Brian Bedford at the Mechanic Theatre thru Nov. 24.

MOTHER JONES— Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Corner Theatre, Fine Arts Building, Community College of Baltimore, 2901 Liberty Heights.

D.C. Happening

WILL ROGERS' USA — One man show with James Whitmore. Sundays at 3 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Through November 25. Ford's Theatre, 511-10th St., NW., call (202) 347-4833.

TEIBELE AND Her Demon— Sundays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m. Through November18. Arena Stage, Kreeger Theatre, Sixth St. and Maine Ave., SW. Call (202) 488-3300.

MACBETH — Sundays at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesdays to Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Through November 18. Folger Theatre, 201 E. Capitol St., SE. Call (202) 546-4000.

CUSTER — Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Tuesday to Friday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Through November 18. Kennedy Center, Terrace Theatre.

NATIONAL SYMPHONY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA — Max Rudolf, guest conductor. Music by Beethoven and Haydn. Thursday at 8:30 p.m. Concert Hall.

NEKRASOV BALALIKA ORCHESTRA — with stars of the Bolshoi Opera and the Kiev Ballet. Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Kennedy Center information: (800) 424-8504

Dance

IMPETUS Dance Company under Jeff Duncan at Humanities Theatre, Catonsville Community College, Fri. Nov. 16, 8 p.m.

COLLAGE DANCE MIME THEATRE, Robinne Commissions, Artistic Director, World Premiere, "Hary Hanos in the USA", Nov. 18, at 8:30 p.m. and Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Jewish Community Center, 5700 Park Heights Avenue. For ticket information call 542-4900.

Thanksgiving

MAYOR's Thanksgiving Party — War Memorial Plaza Wed., Nov. 21 Noon. Armistead Gardens Elementary Bell Choir, Senior Citizens Mini Band.

Free Films

"The Mystery of Nefertiti," a film examining the six-year efforts of an archaeological team to reconstruct on paper a famous Egyptian temple, can be seen at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 17, at the Light Street branch, 1251 Light street.

Freddie Bartholomew stars in "Tom Brown's School Days," the story of life in a 19th century English public school, to be shown at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 17, at the central library, 400 Cathedral street.

"A Sense of Loss," which examines the effect on people of the current turmoil in Northern Ireland, can be seen at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 18, at the central Pratt Library, 400 Cathedral Street.

Jesse Walker's N.Y.

NEW YORK — McDonald's All-American High School Band, some 192 youngsters — two from each state and the District of Columbia — will appear for the 13th straight year in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. There are five black members in the band this year and the assistant director, Paul Jeffrey, is black. The band will give a pre-parade concert on Wednesday, Nov. 21 at Carnegie Hall with Lionel Hampton as guest artist.

Northern J. Calloway is starting his eighth season as David on "Sesame Street," which is itself starting its 11th season on Monday, Nov. 26. Calloways role in the award-winning TV show for preschoolers gives him the opportunity to use his varied talents as actor, singer and dancer. He's also been busy developing new concepts for children's records. The first that he has written and produced, "David's Daydreaming On A Rainy Day," was released last fall. Another album produced by Calloway and Gavin Spencer called "On The Street Where We Live — A Block Party," involves the "Sesame Streets" cast.

The Christmas Tree in Harlem Committee, busily engaged in raising funds for its second mammoth tree to be displayed in the Harlem State Office Building Plaza, also hopes this year to give away Christmas baskets or gifts to some lucky kids. Donations range from 25 cents upward, and can be sent to the Committee at 22 West 135th Street, NYC 10037.

The Renaissance Ballroom, the last of the famous Harlem ballrooms, was gutted by fire last week, forcing the Copasetics to move their Annual Show and Dance ("We Got Class") on Monday, Nov. 19 to the Savoy Manor in the Bronx. Incidentally, the Copasetics will be featured on Dec. 12 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in a line-up of history's hottest hoofers, including the Nicholas Brothers, the Hoofers and Lon Collins, plus Dizzy Gillespie and Joe Carroll.

Harlem's Apollo Theater must have settled its differences with the IRS since it's open now and showing "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh", the Gilbert Moses-directed comedy about a basketball team and starring Julius Erving, Jonanthan Winters, Meadowlark Lemon, Flip Wilson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar — plus the sounds of The O'Jays, the Sylvers, The Four Tops, The Spinners and Phyllis Hyman. And, as shocking as it may seem, the fact that the Apollo is open and showing this film makes it the ONLY movie house open in Harlem these days.

Sheldon Harris, the man who spent 18 years researching and writing his encyclopedic "Blues Who's Who" and blues singer Beulah Bryant were on the Joe Franklin TV show Friday night plugging the book. Although it costs $35, it's a biographical dictionary of all blues singers, with 571 bios and 450 photos. It's fully indexed. Arlington House is the publisher.

Stoney Martini, a former dancer who was once with the Norman Miller Dancers, was one of the Americans lucky enough to get out of Iran following the fall of the Shah. He had to leave his jewelry and other valuables in Iranian bank. He's now working as a janitor in an apartment house in Queens.

Prior to their 7th Annual AUDELCO Awards Ceremony on Nov. 19 at the Symphony Space, AUDELCO held a party to introduce the nominees at Levitucci International with The Best of Friends playing hosts. Entertainment was by Walter Jackson with Chazz and Necessary Changes.

Roy Campanella, Jr., who has completed his studies at Columbia Univ. and begun work on his second film, "The Thieves," has had his first short, "Pass-Fall," incorporated in the touring American Mavericks Film Festival now out.

It comes out now that Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the FBI's Los Angeles office to obtain advance copies of two movie scripts on Malcolm X, to determine whether they were critical of the bureau. Scripts arousing the late FBI's chief curiosity were written by James Bladwin and the late Louis Lomax. Neither was made into a feature film. The FBI interest was spurred by the writers' remarks that the U.S. intelligence agencies played a role in the murder of Malcolm X in 1965.

Ella Fitzgerald, who recently received the Encyclopedia Britannica's Achievement In Life Award in Chicago, will receive one of the second annual Kennedy Center Honors, on Dec. 2 in Washington, for a "lifetime of significant contribution to American culture in the artistic arts." She'll be honored along with Aaron Copland, Henry Fonda, Martha Graham and Tennessee Williams.

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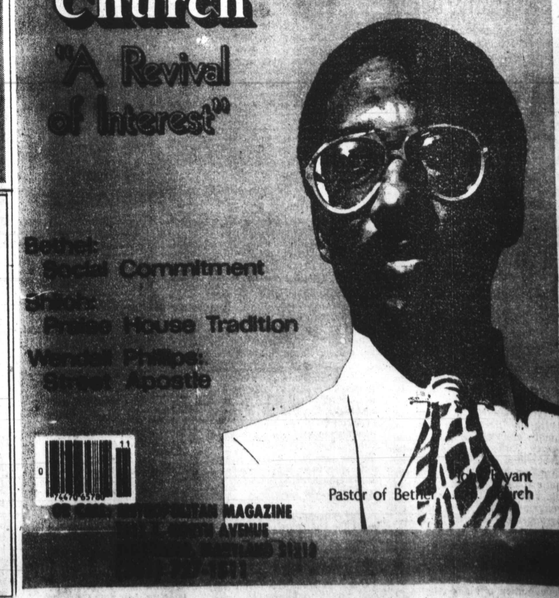

Behind: Social Commitment

Inside: Prince House Tradition

Warren Phillips: Street Apostle

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