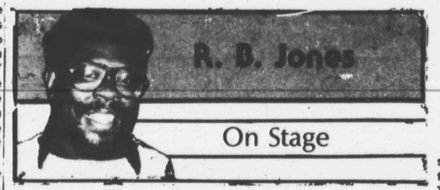
"School For Wives" is delightful



At the end of the Center Stage version the two young lovers Horace and Agnes do a minuet to the strains of George and Ira Gershwin's song "S'Wonderful" and that ending is very apt. The play is wonderfully done because it features fine performance, a set that eventually growson one and a translation of Moliere that is clever and lively.

The plot of the play is simple enough. Arnolphe is a man irrationally afraid of being cuckolded (the victim of an unfaithful wife) so he raises the young lady left as his ward to uneducated and naive about the ways of the world. Arnolphe believes that Agnes will be true to him because she has no longing or curiosity about the world.

Or course Arnolphe's plans are foiled because education and exposure to the world are not the only things that arouse curiosity and rebellion in the human heart. Humans are inherently curious and they inherently seek love and, so Arnolphe's plans fall apart.

Agnes meets a young Horace and the two fall in love. Arnolphe is incensed because his young ward whom he had planned to marry is resisting his "instruction" and foiling his efforts to keep her away from Horace.

What is most galling for Arnolphe is the fact that he becomes Horace's confidant and knows of the young lovers' plans in advance yet he is foiled at every attempt to keep them apart. Arnolphe is powerless to foil the inevitable marriage between the young lovers and so he eventually leaves, cuckolded before he is even married.

The play is a delight because it contains humor and wisdom about love and life without being didactic. It was like viewing a bright airy meadow in spring.

The three principal actors gave wonderful performances. Robert Dorfman was excellent as the frustrated Arnolphe. Kathryn Marcupulos was very convincing as the innocent Agnes who finds love. Anthony Fusco made a very dashing Horace and all the actors handled the rhythm couplets with ease.

If Moliere were alive he certainly could be proud of this production which is true to the play's intent.

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Good Luck. See you at the concert!

Morgan Holds Third Annual Conference on Black Theatre

By Elyn Garrett

Morgan State University is the site for the Third Annual International Conference on Black Theatre. The conference got underway yesterday, (Thursday), and will culminate today with a schedule of events which include a presentation by playwright Ed Bullins, of the Bullins Papers to the University's president, Dr. Earl Richardson.

This year's theme is "Black Theatre of the Folk Tradition," and experts in the field have been on hand to address the conference crowd. Baltimore Griot, Mary Carter Smith, Morgan Professor, Dr. Ruth T. Sheffey; University of California Professor, Margaret Wilkerson; and City College of New York Professor, James Hatch, are just a few who were included on this year's program.

Among the many events on the program was the honoring of May Miller Sullivan, playwright and former teacher at Douglass High School, and daughter of the late Kelly Miller, eminent Howard University professor and dean. Mrs. Sullivan is the author of seven volumes of poetry, and two anthologies. She has also published fifteen plays, and edited two volumes of poetry.

Included among her prizes and honors are the Howard University Drama Prize and the **Opportunity** Magazine Award for Playwriting. She has also had works published in **Caroline** Magazine and the **Antioch Review.**

Throughout the two day conference, works by noted playwrites will be addressed and studied. These include S. Randolph Edmonds, author of **Bad Man** (1938); Owen Dodson, **Divine Comedy** (1938); Adrienne Kennedy's **Funny House of A Negro** (1968); Alice Childress; **Wedding Band** (1972); and Lorraine Hansberry's **A Raisin in the Sun** (1959)

There was also a special preview of "A Raisin in the Sun" on Thursday at the Arena Playhouse, in conjunction with the conference, performed by the Arena Players.

This year's conference was made possible by a special grant from the Maryland Humanities Council. Morgan State University's Dr. Samuel A. Hay was the conference's coordinator.

Prince has changed his look but not his image in the new Warner Brothers release, "Under the Cherry Moon". In the film, Prince portrays a young pianist who holds forth nightly in a swanky hotel in Nice, France. The society women who are guests at the hotel are his main target. Interesting.

C.C.H. Pounder's on her way

The paychecks should come in as regular for all actresses the way they do for Carol Christine Hilarie (that's Portuguese for Hillary) Pounder. Or C.C.H. Pounder as she calls herself for short. No sooner had she finished a picture with Bette Davis for cable television when her phone rang with an offer to co-star in the mini-series "If Tomorrow Comes," which was broadcast on CBS last month.

In it, she was Ernestine, or Ernie as she was known in the cooler. Ernie was, to put it nicely, a little on the tough side. Not so her newest part. That's the role of Ada Johnson, the mother of a black Vietnam War hero whose family, during the early '70s, attempts to bury in a "white" cemetery. It's RESTING PLACE, a "Hallmark Hall of Fame."

"I've played a lot of 'downtrodden' black women," says C.C. "Ada used to be that way. But her son's death draws her out of her passivity. The strength her son had in life becomes her strength."

Born in British Guyana, C.C. received her early education in England. She didn't get to the States until she was 19. "My parents," she says, "had already emigrated here. I came to attend college."

Still a Guyanese citizen (she hopes to have her citizenship papers by the time RESTING PLACE is broadcast), C.C., in England, went to a religious school. To get to see a little of the life outside the cloistered convent walls, she got out by competing in debates and reciting poetry. "It was an elocution teacher," she recalls, "who suggested I try acting. I did and here I am."

She is indeed. "My career's been good to me," she says. "But if I have a gripe it's that I'm always -- good ol' Ernie was the exception -- cast as a weepy Southern gal. Once in awhile I'd like to play a Northern businesswoman or an Eastern lawyer. But I intend to be walking on this planet when I'm 72. Things will all come around."

C.C.H. Pounder and Morgan Freeman portray the parents of a Vietnam War hero whom they attempt to bury in a white cemetery in "Resting Place", airing Sunday, April 27 on CBS.

Reggae music star Jimmy Cliff (L) stars in the new Warner Brothers comedy, "Club Paradise" with comedian Robin Williams (C) and Peter O'Toole, opening soon at area theatres.