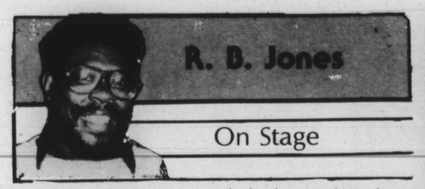


R. B. Jones On Stage

A Map of the World

Center Stage's current production "A Map of the World" by David Hare is talky and somewhat pedantic. There is very little action. If the play did not have dialogue bordering on brilliance, perhaps crossing the border at times, and two antagonists who are both compelling and well drawn the play would not be one that I could recommend at the highest level.

The central idea is the struggle between idealism and cynicism in a world that seems intent upon crushing the idealist. A subtheme of the play is the terrible struggle that former colonies face as they face the massive task of development in a world where their former colonial masters control the purse strings of agencies that supposedly lend them money to help them industrialize.

The setting is a Bombay India hotel during a United Nations conference on world poverty. It is ironic that the conference is being held at a hotel that is a former haunt of the British colonial masters and is far from the areas of the city where corpses lay unattended on the streets.

Stephen Andrews, a young writer for a left-wing British finds himself frustrated and bewildered by the conditions of the country and the way the conference has become bogged down in petty bureaucratic squabbles.

He meets a seemingly hard boiled American television correspondent Elaine Le Fanu and they immediately develop a friendship. Also present at the hotel is a young film actress Peggy Whitton who wishes to meet Victor Mehta, an expatriate Indian writer of world wide fame who is running to give an address at the conference.

When Victor Mehta arrives at the conference real trouble begins. Victor has an affair with Peggy which bothers Stephen who had designs on her as well. Stephen's jealous and his idealistic view of possibility of change in the world clash with Victor's tendency to be c ynical and highly critical of the U.N. and Third World regimes. Deep down Victor resents the fact that Stephen retains the youthful idealism that Victor has lost.

Some African countries and others protest the speech that Victor is scheduled to give and so they threaten to walk out of the conference unless he reads a statement prior to his address.

Victor refuses and Stephen criticizes him. Peggy suggests a contest of ideas between with the winner receiving her sexual favors.

"A Map of the World" raises some very relevant questions about the possibility of creating a utopian world or at least an approximation of utopia. That question plagues the world and this play gives the audience a lot to think about on the subject.

The play also has segments that take place in the present while a film is being made of Victor's novel of the happenings at the conference. These segments provide comic relief because the shallowness of the filmmakers contrast sharply with the profound ideas expressed by the real persons.

The performances by the lead characters were all strong. Thomas Gibson as Andrew was zealous idealistic, but he played the character with a kindness toward even his opponent that made his idealism more attractive than harsh fanaticism.

Lorraine Toussaint brought vulnerability and rationality to her portrayal of Elaine. Her character was not the stereotyped shallow TV personality, she was caring and she was wise.

Linda Cook's portrayal of Peggy and well crafted because she brought an innocence and dignity to a character that could merely have been a thrill seeking tramp, as they used to say in the movies.

Alexander Zale brought Victor to life as a man torn by his dual cultural sensibilities and his cynicism and his hope. He made Victor a brilliant man who is not quite certain of his well argued opinions.

"A Map of the World" is an evening well worth spending on Calvert St. The play runs through Nov. 30.

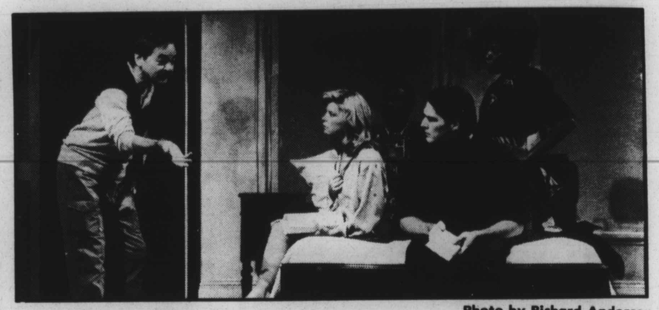
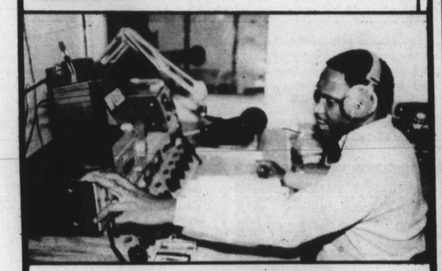


Photo by Richard Anderson

(L-R) Charles Antalosky, Linda Cook, Robert Jason, Thomas Gibson and Lorraine Toussaint start in "A Map of the World," the current production at Center Stage.

We Entertain Baltimore's Best



Chuck Maxx, Program Director

Now The 24 Hour Power Station

1360 AM

'Dangerous Corner' opens at Arena Players

Harvey Denmark and Curtis Kane, who recently appeared in a local production of "Member of the Wedding," are reunited in the Arena Players current production of J.B. Priestley's "Dangerous Corner." The melodrama, dealing with the hazards of telling the whole truth, will open on Friday, October 31 and run on weekends through November 21.

Also featured in the cast are Nancy Barrick, Annette Burton, Ronnie Larkins, Vacountess Payne, Lori Adair, Washington and John McGee as partners a closely knit social group which is viciously jolted when its members begin to reveal the truth about their relationships.

The performances will take place at the Arena Playhouse, 801 McCulloh Street at Martin Luther King Boulevard. Call 728-6500 for ticket reservations.

(L-R) Harvey Denmark, John McGee and Curtis Kane star in "Dangerous Corner" opening at the Arena Playhouse Friday, October 31.

SOAP OPERA WEEK

Lau has moved onto "Another World"

By Kimberly Redmond

Q: We've waited long enough for Laurence Lau to return to "All My Children" and his role of Greg Nelson. When is he comming back!?—B.H., Kearneysville, WV.

A: Sorry B.H., but Lau won't be returning to "AMC." But you can see him on the small screen again if you tune in to "Another World," where he's now portraying Dr. Jamie Frame.

Q: Is the child who portrays Victoria Newman on "The Young and the Restless" the real-life daughter of Melody Thomas Scott, who plays Victoria's mother, Nikki?—J.S., Richmond, VA.

A: Although Scott's real-life daughter, Alix, is about the same age as her TV daughter, the youngster who portrays her daughter on "Y&R" is child actress Ashley Nicole Millan.

Q: My brother and I have been arguing for a very long time over how long William Gray Espy played Snapper Foster on "The Young and the Restless." We don't agree on the time span—K.D., West Paris, ME.

A: Espy, who currently portrays Mitch Blake on "Another World," played Snapper on "Y&R" from 1973-75, when he opted to leave the soap.

Q: Whatever happened to Marlena and Roman Brady's twins, Eric and Samantha, on "Days of Our Lives?" They were so cute—T.H. Tampa, FL.

A: As is the case with most soap opera babies, Eric and Samantha, who are played by real-life twins Eddie and Tiffany Palma, haven't been seen very much since their birth. One reason you don't see younger children frequently on the soaps is that infants and very young children are only allowed to work under the hot TV studio lights for very short periods of time.

Q: Some time ago on "Days of Our Lives," they featured scenes shot on location when Bo and Hope (played by Peter Reckell and Kristian Alfonso) and several other cast members were seen rafting down a river. Can you tell me where those scenes were filmed?—T.S., Wickliffe, OH.

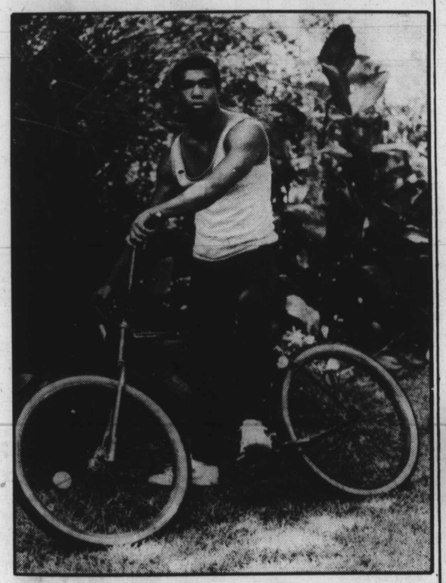
A. Bo, Hope and the others were seen shooting the rapids on the Kern River in central California.

Q. when the character of Wally McCandless, played by Bill Beyers, sings on "Capitol," is Beyers really singing or are they using a sound track?—S.S., Jamestown, NY.

A. Beyers, who has been singing and writing his own music for many years now, does his own singing on the show.

Q. I've been searching everywhere for the Gloria Loring (Liz Curtis on "DOOL") record "Friends and Lovers" which she recorded with Carl Anderson. Where can I buy it?—K.H., Dumont, NJ.

Continued on page 8



Michael Beach stars in "Vengeance: The Story of Tony Cimo on the CBS Saturday Movie" airing Saturday, November 1 at 9 p.m.

More Happenings

EXHIBITS

'Soundings'

"Soundings," an exhibition of sculpture by Ed Love, will be on display now through November 26 at the Howard University Gallery of Art. For further information, call (202) 636-6047.

The Baltimore Museum of Art

Works by Henri Matisse entitled the Spirited Line-works on Paper will be on display now through November 2. This major exhibit includes 170 prints, 39 drawings, and a complete collection of the artist's 12 illustrated books.

Also on display now through November 16 is an exhibition of 102 works by Minor White. For further information, call 396-6310.

Molography at Maryland Science Center

Holography, the art that is three - dimensional, created by lasers and changes when viewed from different angles and distances, will be on display at the Maryland Science Center in an exhibit entitled "Through the Looking Glass." The exhibit will be on display now through February, 1987. For further information, call 685-2370.

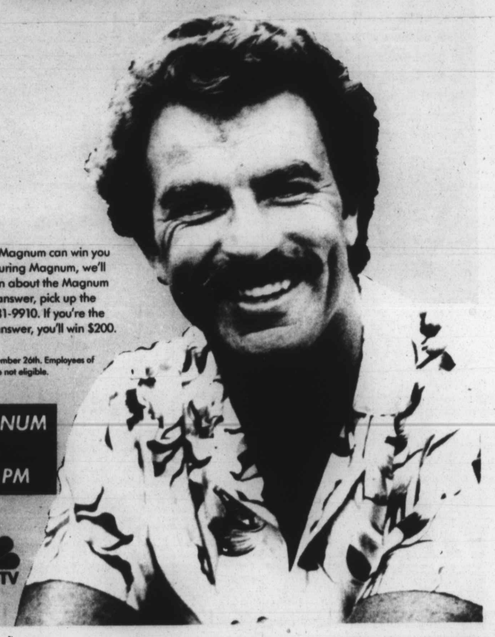
* * *

THEATRE

'And A Nightingale Sang'

The Boston Company, Lyric Stage, will be presenting "And A Nightingale Sang" by Scottish playwright C. P. Taylor at Theatre Project through Sunday, November 16. For further information, call 752-8558.

WATCH MAGNUM AND WIN!



What you know about Magnum can win you cash! Each weekday, during Magnum, we'll ask you a trivia question about the Magnum Show. If you know the answer, pick up the phone and call us at 481-9910. If you're the caller with the correct answer, you'll win $200.

Contest ends Wednesday, November 26th. Employees of WMAR-TV and their families are not eligible.

WATCH MAGNUM & WIN! WEEKDAYS 4 PM

2 WMAR-TV