The musical "Roza" at Center Stage is an exciting event. It is a premiere which is always a special event and when a premiere presents a play that is as good as Roza it magnifies the en-

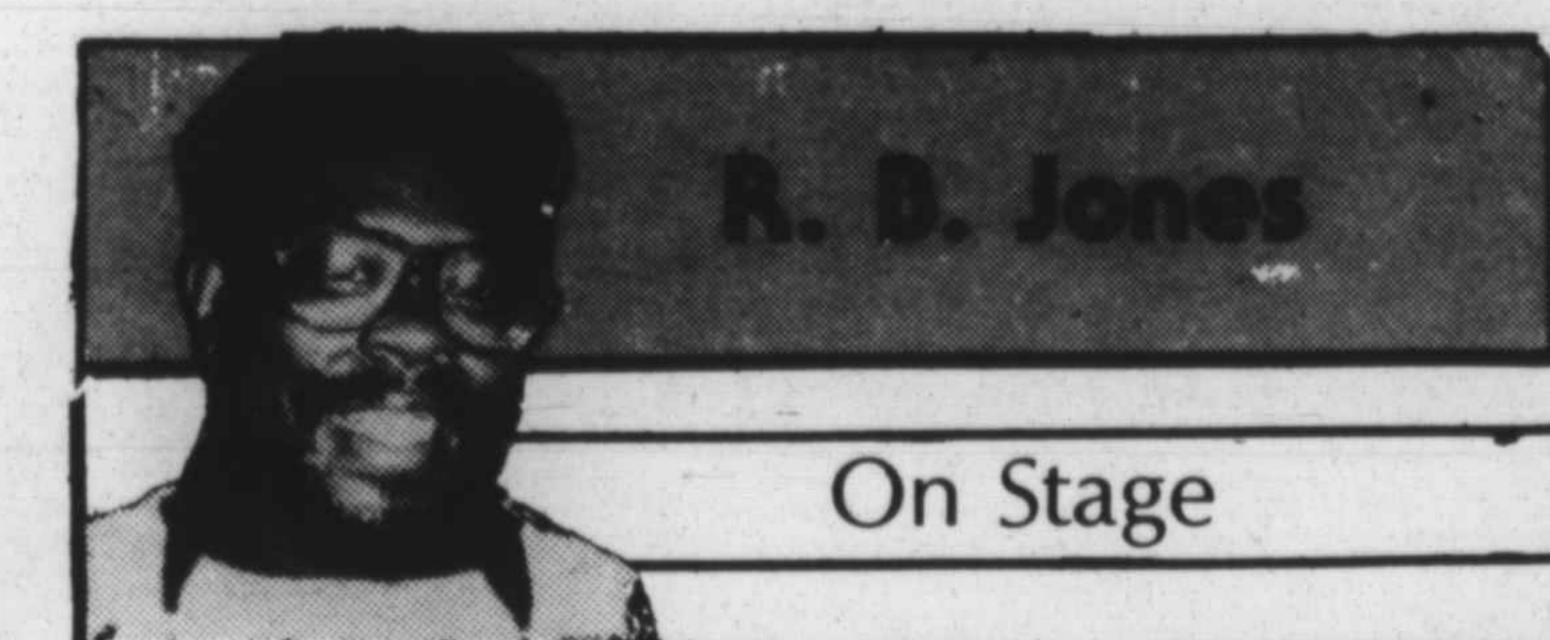
The famed Broadway producer Hal Prince brought the premiere of "Roza" to Center Stage out of some disillusion with the "Great White Way." Regional theater presented an alternative that allows for the use of top flight professionals without the enormous pressures of New York.

"Roza" is a delightfully bittersweet story of the relationship between Madame Roza a retired prostitute who cares for the children of women still active in her profession. The children she cares for are an interreligious interracial, international gathering who live in the spacious apartment with the outwardly gruff but loving Roza.

She is essentially attached to her Momo, an arab boy and the wildest of the children. He is the pimp who killed her and Roza makes sure that the father never reclaims the boy.

Roza lives in an immigrant of ner of Paris, in a building that houses hookers, a transexual former boxer and an elderly arab who constantly quotes the Quran.

Despite their outsider status in society the residents of the building protect each other.





(Photo by Richard Anderson) Young Momo (Brian Noodt) looks on as N'Da Amadee (Ira Hawkins), local conman and self-proclaimed "King of Belleville," dictates an imaginary letter to his parents, telling them of his respectable pursuits in "Roza," now at Center

who wrote the hit song "What Now My Love."

The set at Center Stage, as usual is magnificent although the "Roza" features some tunes apartment of Madame Roza is that linger in the mind with a angled so sharply that the actors french flavor due to the music be- must move about gingerly and on ing written by Gilbert Becaud occasion glasses slide because o'

the steepness.

I can not adequately convey the essence of the songs. I say that some were quite memorable such as "Brava, Bravo" where Roza talks about her ability t survive everything including Nazi death camp, "Merci" where Momo and his friend Moise parody Roza and "Don't make me laugh" when Roza on the verg

from crying.

The entire cast does a fine job. There is not one weak performance in the cast. A couple of the singers were shaky on two numbers but the music is such that one does not need a great voice to sell the songs the way one would in "Oklahoma."

they dance enticingly for him.

transexual as they laugh to keep

Georgia Brown was superb as

become a Broadway hit that you saw the first run. "Roza" runs unreminisces with Madame Lola the Madame Roza and Bob Gunton til Jan. 18. getting so we kinda like the returned from New York where sound generated by all the elec- she had expected to sit in with tronics in use in the jazz world the group with which Gary

these days. Thomas was gigging, but she Last Monday, Arnold Sterling showed up with a full array of backup group which will be ac- electronic gear, a keyboard syn-| companying Ethel Ennis on the thesizer attachment for his horn, her to get a call in the near B upcoming New Year's Eve spec- so he could alternate between future, to move up the line. She the acoustic and the electronic,

and with good effect. It provided a perfect complement to Mickey's acoustic horn. The Monday sets continue to be

By the way, Ralph Fisher is missing from the scene for a while on drums. If you're really he has that flair that punches up curious, you might ask Mickey for big band arrangements. some of the details.

Have to add that Donald Lane has added electronics to his horn, think trying to put together o and is really cooking over at the local "dream" band performance Sphinx Club. Will give a complete breakdown later.

Got a call from Lady Rebecca

This week, you will find a lot of variety for your television viewing pleasure. So, sit down, relax and forget about all of the holiday preparations, for a while.

Tonight, on NBC's "Friday Night Videos," seen on Channel at 12:30 A.M., you'll see Ahmad Rashad, as one of the hosts. Two of the videos he'll be introducing will be the Pointer Sisters' "Goldmine," and Janet Jackson's "Control" video, from her double platinum album of the Historic footage of figure skating set to broadcast live from the same name.

About TV

pioneers will be interspersed Scope in Norfolk, Virginia. On Saturday, December 20th, with special performances by Ms. During this holiday season, be sure to catch Debi Thomas, Thomas and other American many people open their hearts

the reigning U.S. and World Olympic and World Champions. and wallets to help those less for-Ladies' Figure Skating Champion, Also, on this same sports tunate. But, have any of us on "ABC's Wide World of Sports" special, you'll be able to view the stopped to think about how it at 4 p.m. on Channel 13. The seg- exciting boxing career of Pernell feels to be that unfortunate perment, entitled "Celebration . . . Whitaker, the 1984 lightweight son? Well, the staff and stars of America on Ice," will have, as its Olympic gold medalist and cur- "What's Happening Now!!" theme, a tribute to the 1961 U.S. rently unbeaten pro, square off have, and they are airing a story Ice Skating Team and will also against former WBA Junior on Saturday, December 20th, enserve as a benefit to aid promis- Lightweight Champion Alfredo titled "I'll Be Homeless for ing, young competitive skaters Layne. Whitaker will be attempt- Christmas" on Channel 11 at 7 through the U.S. Figure Skating ing to extend his record to 11-0 p.m. Though the series is a situa-Association Memorial Fund. in a scheduled 10 round match tion comedy, the program will be humorous without diminishing the seriousness of the situation and without laughing at homeless people. Because, as you and I know, America's homeless is an important issue that needs to be addressed.

> Here's a treat for you "Webster" fans. Beginning Monday, December 22nd at 11:20 a.m., repeat episodes of this popular series will join ABC's daytime schedule. Check your television listings for specifications and channel for this area.

Emmy Award-winning "Hill Street Blues" takes on another controversial plot, set to air Tuesday, December 23rd at 9 p.m. on Channel 2. This time, Taurean Blacque's character, "Neal Washington," will be featured in a story about a white cop who kills his black partner, under questionable circumstances. This will make for a lot of tension and excitement "on the Hill."

On Wednesday, December 24th at 11 a.m. on Channel 13, Mary Wilson, former member of The Supremes will share her life, loves and secrets on ABC's "Fame, Fortune & Romance." Ms. Wilson will tell the inside story of the three girls from the Brewsters' projects in Detroit, who rocketed to international

At noon on Christmas Day, clear away the wrapping paper and wait for dinner by watching "NBA on CBS." The Chicago Bulls will take on the New York Knicks, live from Madison Square Garden in New York City. The game will air locally on Channel | G GENERAL AUDIENCES

Another prominent sports figure will be making a television appearance but not in his natural environment. Mike Tyson (28-0), the World Boxing Council's



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"MURPHY IS WONDERFULLY WACKY ..."



Produced by EDWARD S. FELDMAN and ROBERT D. WACHS Directed by MICHAEL RITCHIE



• Two Rooms of Live Entertainment.

"Mirage" featuring Dawn Robinson in JOPLIN'S "Rough" Band & Show in the FOUNDERS' BALLROOM

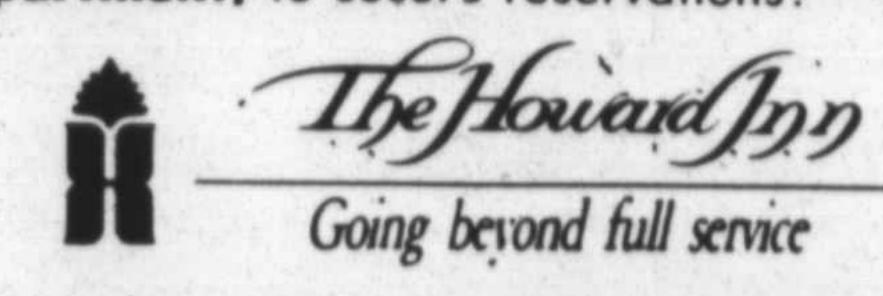
• Deluxe Guest Room with Early Check In and Late Check Out

• Four course Gourmet Dinner for Two. Complimentary Party Favors and a Bottle of Champagne a

Midnight. Complimentary Buffet Breakfast with an "Eye Opener" on New Year's Day for Overnight Guests.

 Free parking. Price: \$155 Per Couple with Room / \$105 Per Couple Without

(All taxes and gratuities included.) This event sold out early last year, so call 462-5400, Catering Department, to secure reservations!



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| | tacular at Ethel's Place. Charlie Covington, piano; Andy Ennis, tenor sax; Ricky Loza, drums; Carrol DaShiell, bass, and O'Donel Levy, guitar.

Incidently, Ethel's Place has a musician's chance to experireceived word that Wynton ment, and they are standing in Marsalis has added a tenor sax line waiting for a chance on the player to his group, so it will be bandstand. | a quintet for his appearance B beginning January 2.

3 will be, but we'll keep you posted just as soon as we can nail down 13 the identification. By the way reservations are moving briskly for this set, so be advised.

* * *

Continue to make the Monda sets at the Sportsmen's

didn't get a chance to sing. She did, however, make some is working Friday nights at the

(Photo by Richard Anderson)

made Madame Lola a very sym-

pathetic character despite the

fact that his transexual could

become a figure of ridicule.

Madame Lola is a pillar of

If at all possible, go see "Roza"

since it is the first run of the

musical and one will be able to

say later on should the show

strength in the play.

In a scene from "Roza," Madame Bouaffa (Michele Mais) and

her sister, Jasmine (Yamil Borges) tease Momo (Alex Paez) as

Sportsmen's Lounge and swinging all the way. When we caught the performance last time, Johnny Polite was accompanying her on drums, which brought to mind that

"dream" band Ruby Glover and I have been contemplating. choice for a big-band drummer;

Have received a couple of choices from jazz lovers who would be a good idea.

Think about it — then let Ruby

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