

National company brings hit musical

"Your Arms Too Short to Box with God," Vinnette Carroll's hit Broadway musical, will have its Detroit premiere Tuesday, June 12 in the Music Hall.

William-Keebler Hardy, Jr., as The Minister, heads this national touring company. The company also features stars of the original Broadway cast as well as singers and dancers from "The Wiz" and "Bubbling Brown Sugar."

Nominated for Tony Awards for direction, book, choreography, music and lyrics, "Arms Too Short" is the second award-winning musical in four years that Mr. Carroll has sent to Broadway from her off-Broadway base, the Urban Arts Corps. Her first hit was the highly acclaimed "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope."

A smash for two seasons in New York, "Arms Too Short" had one of the most unusual beginnings of any musical in history. It was originally conceived and produced for the Italian government for presentation at the famed Spoleto Festival of Two Worlds in honor of the Holy Year in 1975.

IN SPOLETO, where the audiences were almost all white, Catholic and non-English speaking, this play, created out of American gospel music, triumphed for six weeks.

From Italy, the musical went to Washington, D.C., where it stayed for five months. It then played Chicago, broke records in Philadelphia and returned for a second engagement in Washington before premiering at Broadway's Lyceum Theater on Dec. 22, 1976.

"Arms Too Short" is on a 75-city nationwide tour.



Restaurants give a taste of ethnic festival

The variegated tapestry of ethnic heritage in metropolitan Detroit will be reflected in the Fine Foods Ethnic Festival, "A Taste of Detroit," Friday-Sunday, May 18-20, at Hart Plaza (foot of Woodward) in downtown Detroit's Civic Center.

More than two dozen restaurants will offer mini-servings of their specialty foods at this three-day event, which is sponsored by the Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA), representing 1,800 member restaurants

throughout the state.

Minimal charges will be made for the food so festival-goers can try a wide variety of taste treats, according to festival chairman Terry Young.

The Fine Foods Ethnic Festival, which is the kickoff for the city's ethnic festival weekends season, will be the first to utilize the new, permanent ethnic festival facilities (with built-in kitchens) in Hart Plaza.

AMONG THE businesses participat-

ing in the weekend event are Kingsley Inn of Bloomfield Hills; Machus Enterprises (headquartered in Birmingham); C.A. Murr Corp.; Catering Inc.; Charley's Crab of Troy and Bloomfield; Charley's of West Bloomfield; Magic Pan (which has a location in Troy); the Bull Market of Rochester; and Win Schuler's (including those in West Bloomfield and Avon Township).

Others participating are Jim's Garage, Grecian Gardens, Porter Street Station, Schweizer's, Dearborn

Inn, Paradise Cafe, Schmid Haus, Nemo's, Woodbridge Tavern, Buddy's, Rendezvous Pizzeria, Brother's Bar-B-Q, Elias Bros. Big Boy, Ciro's, Don's Chuck Wagon, Grillo Produce and Rhinoceros.

"A Taste of Detroit" will get underway with nontime Friday festivities. Entertainment, including a disco session Sunday, will be provided throughout the three-day, noon-11 p.m. festival through the cooperation of the Detroit Council of Arts.

Concert booked

John Hammond and Roosevelt Sykes will appear in concert Monday and Tuesday, May 21 and 22, at the Black Sheep Theater in Mnachester. Showtimes are 7 and 9:30 each evening. Tickets are available at Schoolkids Records on Liberty St. in Ann Arbor and Recordland in Briarwood Mall, Ann Arbor. Call the Black Sheep Theater office at 428-9280 or 428-9287 during business hours Monday-Friday.

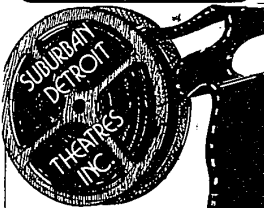
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"LOVE AT FIRST BITE" (PG)

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