

Entertainment

Ethel Simmons editor/644-1100



Thursday, October 13, 1983 O&E

(Wb,T,S,F-11C,Ro-9C)(J)13C

Star describes play as message of love

See next page for review of "Master Harold" . . . and the boys.

By Ethel Simmons
staff writer

ACTOR JOHN AMOS, starring in "Master Harold" . . . and the boys" at the Birmingham Theatre, described the play's message as he sees it:

"It's about love between three individuals when the relationship is jeopardized without outside pressures," he said, during an interview backstage in his dressing room Tuesday morning.

The show opened in Birmingham at a benefit performance hosted by the Oakland County ACLU and civil rights leaders. Its run will continue through Nov. 5.

Wearing a plaid shirt and jeans and a casual hat, Amos strode to the dressing room window on arrival, opening it to the sounds of construction work going on in what formerly was a parking lot behind the theater.

The fresh air outweighed the minor noise disturbance.

THE POWERFULLY built actor, who was at one time a professional football player, has also been a social worker, a stand-up comedian and TV comedy writer before becoming an actor. His many performances include the memorable role of Kunta Kinte in the TV mini-series "Roots."

Amos said "Master Harold," the

'It's a real relationship between three actors.'

— John Amos

play by Athol Fugard, is "beautifully written. These are the best words I've ever had to say. I'd read and heard about his work. But it's different when you're acting. You try to give it a little bit extra."

He is pleased with the ensemble acting he shares with Paul Butler as Willie and Brian Backer as Hally. Amos is Sam, who works with Willie in the South African tearoom run by the teenage schoolboy's mother.

"We're fortunate to have Suzanne Shepherd as director," he said. "She knows the play so well. Shepherd has directed the South African company production of "Master Harold." "She and Athol are very good friends," he said.

Amos talked freely about his working relationship with his co-stars. "It's a real relationship between three actors," he explained. "Paul Butler has a son in Yale Law School. I have a 13-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl. We can see him (young Brian Backer) as parents, being older actors."

HE RECALLED an earlier performance of the play before an audience of some 35 casting directors. "Brian was so terrified. He thought he was going to the electric chair! He showed his sensi-

bilities."

In the play, Sam and Willie talk about a dance competition they are looking forward to. "The two guys have found something to attach joy to," Amos said. Willie uses the analogy of dancers later in the play when he says everybody in the whole world is bumping into each other and causing problems.

Of the theme in "Master Harold," Amos said, "I'm talking about the whole world. It's bigger than a race thing. Willie talks about how people are bumping into each other. It's beyond a color thing."

Amos had done some run-throughs of the play in a rehearsal hall but found it especially challenging to fill in for James Earl Jones, who has been starring in the Toronto company of "Master Harold."

"It was interesting to feel the chemistry from the two other actors." Here, the chemistry is "a very unique company," he said.

AMOS HOPES this production will continue beyond the Birmingham Theatre engagement. "I would like to do this more. It's a fine play."

Born in New Jersey, the actor recently moved back there after living 13



Amiable John Amos reflects during interview at Birmingham Theatre, where he stars as Sam, a

substitute father to Hally (Harold), in "Master Harold" . . . and the boys."

years in California. "New Jersey may not be Malibu but I know it's not going to slide into the ocean this weekend," he said.

Actually, Amos had lived in the San Fernando Valley, where he had horses and chickens. Now he lives in a small town outside Morristown, N.J. "I just have one dog right now," he said.

For the last 10 years, he has operated his own production company, James Productions Inc., and has been involved in stage productions and a documentary. "Mutua has a couple of low-budget,

film projects in the works.

"John Ford said, 'Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry or scare the hell out of 'em,'" he said, pointing out that this is his concept. "Comedies and tearjerkers — no messages."

At the time, Amos had no idea he would be appearing in "Master Harold," but Mutua, the writer, put the entire manuscript on a series of audio cassettes and it was from these tapes that Amos developed the accent he uses as Sam.

"Mutua literally told the story. I

would write, and he would amend," he said.

ONE OF THE projects he is working on is based on a manuscript he wrote with Credo Mutua in South Africa. It's about two generations of a royal family.

Recalling the experience of being in South Africa, with its policy of apartheid and bitter racial problems, Amos said, "I was horrified. I was scared to death. It was a very bad situation."

Series marks 50th anniversary

The World Adventure Series will begin its 50th season at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, in the Auditorium/Theatre of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The opening program will feature Ray Green presenting "The New Switzerland." Green appeared on the last George Pierrot TV show.

Both season and single tickets are available at the door or by calling the

DIA ticket office at 832-2730, 9:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. seven days a week.

World Adventures Series was begun in 1933 by the late George Pierrot. The series was on television for 25 years as "The George Pierrot Show" and recently returned to television on Channel 58 and Wayne Cablevision as "The World Adventure Series."



Pearl's Garden

Serving the finest in Chinese & American Cuisine

Lunches • Dinners • Carry Out Orders
Chinatown Style Welcomed
Open 7 days a week

Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Sat 12-11 p.m.; Sun. 12-10 p.m.

469 S. Woodward, Birmingham
644-2913

Wine and roses.

That's how we're celebrating Sweetest Day of Jacques. With a complimentary glass of wine for him. A rose for her. And an evening of special dining for both of you to share.

Sweetest Day
Saturday, October 15, 1983
Specially priced dinners for two.
Reservations requested:
642-1373



30100 Telegraph Road, just north of 12 Mile in Bingham Farms

Rip's

KNOWN FOR:

STEAKS, SEAFOOD, NIGHTLY SPECIALS, AND AWARD WINNING RIBS

Every Thursday, Friday & Saturday Evenings

SURF & TURF \$12⁹⁵ PRIME RIB \$10⁹⁵

Check and see what we're doing in our Lounge • Phone 683-1116

999 W. Huron • One Block West of Telegraph • Pontiac

FUNTASTIC FAMILY WEEKEND!



\$39⁵⁰ per room per night

Package Includes:

- One deluxe guest room (Maximum 4 persons per room)
- 2 drink tickets to enjoy at Maxwell's
- Free pizza party for kids 16 and under.
- Sat. 9-10 pm • Free movies and popcorn in the Holidome. Fri. and Sat. • Afternoon check-out on Sunday 3 pm • Supervised activities in the Holidome (primarily for the kids).

Enjoy the fun and excitement of the Farmington Hills Holidome Inn, your weekend getaway headquarters. There's lots to do for the kids while mom and dad enjoy the pool, whirlpool, dining and dancing at Maxwell's. Our Holidome provides just the right atmosphere for rest and recreation. Call 477-4000 today to reserve a funtastic weekend for your family!

Special Family Dinner Menu
Available Sat. 5-7 pm
Adults \$5.95
Children 10 and under \$3.95

Reservations required, offer good Fri., Sat. and Sun. Available for individuals only, does not apply to groups. Expiration date: December 30, 1983.

Farmington Hills
Holiday Inn
30123 W. Ten Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, MI 48024
(313) 477-4000

"... Absolutely The Best Ice Cream in the Universe, Without Argument."

—TIME MAGAZINE—

gelato Classico

Italian Ice Cream

Now Open in The Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi

11111 p.m. Daily, Midnight Friday & Saturday
Across from the Movies

San Francisco's BEST since 1976
NOW HERE IN MICHIGAN!

SOMERSET INN - TROY
IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

Nightly Dinner Specials

7 NIGHTS A WEEK ENJOY DELIGHTFUL DINNER SPECIALS STARTING AT

\$6⁹⁵

(Monday's Italian Buffet)

FRIDAY...
NEW ENGLAND FISHERMAN'S DINNER \$9⁹⁵

SATURDAY...
PRIME RIB DINNER \$9⁹⁵

643-7474



2601 W. BIG BEAVER • TROY