

Attic theater offering English drama 'Ashes'

The powerful English drama "Ashes" will open Friday, May 4, at 8 p.m. as the Attic Theater continues its first season in its new home at 525 E. Lafayette.

The show runs through June 9. Call 663-7789 for ticket information and to make reservations.

"Ashes," a contemporary work by David Huxlin, had its American premiere in 1977, with Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival. The play is a starkly beautiful portrayal of modern marriage, focusing on a young couple's frustrated attempts to conceive a child.

Throughout the barrage of often humiliating medical tests and procedures they must undergo, they maintain a wry sense of humor and an unshakable determination to have a child.

THE PRODUCTION of "Ashes" will be directed by Spencer Golub and will feature David Jeffrey as the husband and Betsy Marion as the wife. Eve Pruden and Bill Clyne will be featured in multiple roles.

Spencer Golub, assistant professor of Wayne State's Theater Department, has recently directed "The Crucible" at the Bonstelle Theater and "Possessed" at the Studio Theater. As a playwright, Hayes Fellow, he also studied Russian theater in the USSR.

David Jeffrey has performed several roles with theater companies in Detroit and Windsor, including Detroit Repertory Theater and the Windsor Light Opera. Betsy Marion has performed off-Broadway and has also appeared on the television program "All My Children."

Bill Clyne, who has studied at Attic Theater Workshops and appeared in community theater productions, makes his Attic debut. Eve Pruden, director of Attic productions of "The Shadow Box" in the Boom Boom Room" and currently "Playboy of the Western World," makes her on-stage Attic debut in "Ashes."

Jazz films scheduled for Michigan premiere

Cass City Cinema and WDET-FM will present the premiere Michigan showing of two programs of the internationally recognized John Baker Jazz Film Collection at Rackham Auditorium, Farmington and Woodward, in the Detroit Cultural Center.

Part I is slated for Friday, May 25, and Part II on Saturday, May 26, at 8 p.m. Each program is 120 minutes long and general admission tickets are available at the door or in advance at the Cass City Cinema in the Unitarian Church at Cass Ave. and Forest.

Part I, "Blues Roots," will feature a two-hour collection of some of the greatest blues singers in American musical history. Many of the film selections and shorts are the only existing prints.

Part II, "Evolution of Jazz," will document the growth of classic performers and their art from ragtime to swingtime in foot-tapping music and rare footage.

THESE PROGRAMS were booked for the May dates over 15 months ago and are in constant demand for showing in North America and Europe. The viewer is taken into history and allowed to hear and see the power of film in documenting the styles and energy of these performers and great bands.

It also provides a glimpse into the past that until recently has been available only on record or in book form.

John Baker of Columbus, Ohio, will be present for the showing. He has been collecting music-related films for 40 years and has amassed 300 hours of films that will soon be turned over to a national film archive for preservation and documentation.

This presentation was made possible by a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts.

John Baker is the foremost collector of jazz film in the world. Frequently referred to as "the granddaddy of jazz film collectors," he has a library that is the world's largest and most diverse, surpassing all others in size, scope, completeness and condition.

NOW RETIRED, Baker was for many years a founder and partner of one of the most successful law firms in Columbus. But his first love was jazz, along with his collection of records and films.

Baker was the pioneer collector of jazz music films in the world. Through the 40s and 50s, he was the sole collector of films in this category worldwide. Since that time, other collectors have risen to prominence, most of them having gotten impetus from Baker.

Baker has been called upon to render his services as expert and researcher to most of the major American network jazz programs over the years. His advice has proven to be of great value to PBS, the BBC, Screen Gems and many television stations throughout America.

Jazz series features Dorothy Ashby

Harplut Dorothy Ashby will open the "Thursday Jazz at the Art Institute" series at the Detroit Institute of Arts with a concert May 3.

The series will run through Sept. 27 with performances by local and out-of-town jazz musicians.

Included in the 1979 artist's roster are Marian McPartland, Gary Burton, Archie Shepp, Barry Harris, Tommy Flanagan and Kenny Burrell.

Two one-hour sets will be presented every Thursday evening at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. in the museum's Kresge Court cafe. Wine, beer, soft drinks and snacks will be available.

Tickets are available by reservation. Ticket information and a complete schedule of artists may be obtained by

Concerts

calling the Detroit Institute of Arts ticket office at 632-2730.

Entrance to the concerts is through the museum's John R. Street auditorium entrance. Lighted parking is available on surface lots surrounding the museum and in the Cultural Center underground garage.

Included in the schedule will be:

May 3 Dorothy Ashby Trio

May 10 Louis Smith and Bess Bonnier Trio

May 17 Marian McPartland

May 24 Ron English Quartet

May 31 George Benson (saxophonist) Quartet

June 7 Sir Roland Hanna

June 14 Harold McKinney and Wendell Harrison "Rebirth"

June 21 "A Detroit Reunion"

June 28 "Doc" Holladay "New Conceptions"

July 5 Gary Burton Quartet

July 12 Marcus Belgrave Quintet

July 19 Jaki Byard/Charles McPherson Quartet

July 26 Larry Nozera Quartet

Aug. 2 Barry Harris Trio

Aug. 9 Kenny Burrell Trio

Aug. 16 Roy Brooks "Artistic Truth"

Aug. 23 Archie Shepp

Aug. 30 Roy Eldridge Quartet

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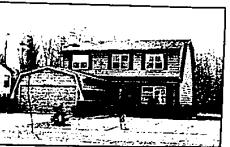
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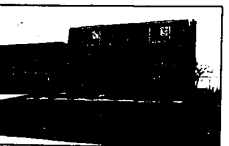
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