

Thoreau Play To Have Pre-Broadway Run

A pre-Broadway production of "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail," Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee's newest play, opens the Bonstelle Theatre season Friday, Oct. 9, at 8:30 p.m. It continues Saturday, Oct. 10, and the following week Thursday through Saturday, October 15-17, at 8:30. The closing performance is a 2:30 matinee Sunday, Oct. 18.

This play, by the prize-winning authors of "Inherit the Wind," "Auntie Mame," and the musical "Mame," is presented in individual productions throughout the United States by the American Playwrights Theatre (APT) and its members, comprising the leading American resident, community and university theatres.

APT THEATRES, including Wayne State's theatre, have exclusive rights to produce this new work through May 1, 1971. Following this, a Broadway production is anticipated, as well as a film, for which the rights already have been purchased.

The play centers around Thoreau's overnight incarceration following his refusal to pay taxes that he felt were being used for an unjust (and undeclared) war on Mexico by the U.S. In a series of overlapping scenes, his life is explored and he returns from reclusé to activist.

Lawrence and Lee researched and interviewed for seven years and even wrote part of the play on Walden Pond in Concord, Thoreau, they point out, "belongs more to the 1970's than to the age in which he lived." He was an ecological warrior a century before it became a widespread popular cause, and was the prophet of nonviolent dissent. "Thoreau," said Lawrence, "said that if man learns to fly, he'll defoul the clouds as well."

Lawrence and Lee were prime movers in creating the American Playwrights Theatre, an association of writers and theatres, whose central aim is to end the heavy reliance of regional theatre on Broadway for its material. A play is "activated" by APT when a minimum of 25 member theatres sign production contracts. At least 100 different theatres probably will present "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail."

"If a play does on Broadway," explains Lawrence, "and a bad notice can kill a play in one night—nobody outside New York wants it, or even knows whether the play was worth wanting. But if it's a hit, the tradition is that nobody can produce it elsewhere until it's had its major run on Broadway."

"EITHER WAY, the theatre suffers everywhere except on Broadway. And the economics of Broadway are insane these days."

"The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail" will be one of the few new American plays to go from the nation-at-large to Broadway, reversing the usual flow out of New York.

Direction is by Don Blakely, with scenery by Norman Hamilton, costumes by Cassandra Roming and lighting by Tom Bryan.

Season tickets or tickets to "Thoreau" are available from the Wayne State University Theatre box office (Hilberry Theatre lobby), Detroit 48202.

Antique Forum Opens Oct. 12

"Collecting Americana: Enjoy Your Antiques" is the theme of the 11th annual Mid-west Antiques Forum, to be held at Greenfield Village, Oct. 12 to 16.

Authorities on antiques and their use in home settings will present illustrated lectures throughout the week.

Registration for the week is \$40. Partial registrations are also available by contacting the Director of Collections, Henry Ford Museum.

From the Balcony

Films listed in this guide are showing at area theaters. Check the theater listings for the specific theater and time of showings.

AIRPORT — Star-studded cast in problems of running a midwestern airport, includes blizzard and suicidal bomber. (G, A-1)

CATCH 22 — Alan Arkin is perfect in the role of World War II flyer, who doesn't want to fly. Black humor is controversial. (R, A-4)

GETTING STRAIGHT — Up-to-date film in which Elliott Gould plays a graduate student having trouble getting oriented to campus life. (R, C)

GIRLY — Vanessa Howard, as Girly, is a girl to beware of. Said not to be for the faint-hearted. (R, A-3)

GOING WITH THE WIND — Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh star in this classic of the Civil War. Film will be withdrawn for seven years.

IT'S A MAD, MAD, MAD, MAD WORLD — is a mad, mad re-release with a vast array of stars. (G, none)

JOB — Another generation gap film, in which the class gap is also crossed. Has murder and mystery too. (R, A-4)

JUNGLE BOOK — Walt Disney and Rudyard Kipling working together. It's a happy arrangement. (G, A-1)

THE LOVE BUG — Dean Jones and Buddy Hackett in another fairly predictable Disney production. (G, A-1)

LOVING — George Segal and Eva Marie Saint handle the problems of a marriage on the rocks, with a little Madison Avenue thrown in. (R, B)

ON A CLEAR DAY YOU CAN SEE FOREVER — Barbra Streisand stars in this musical extravaganza about a girl with ESP. (G, A-2)

THE OUT-OF-TOWNERS — Jack Lemmon and Sandy Dennis star in wry comedy about the perils of living in New York City. (G, A-1)

PATTON — The movie tells the story of Gen. George S. Patton's career in North Africa. George C. Scott is great as Patton. (GP, A-3)

PIECES OF DREAMS — Robert Forster, a priest, has to decide about his calling when he meets Lauren Hutton. (GP, A-4)

QUAKER FORTUNE HAS A COUSIN IN THE BRONX — Gene Wilder is a hit again as a Dublin resident who inherits a free enterprise. (R, A-3)

THE SECRET OF SANTA VITTORIA — Anthony Quinn stars in a warmhearted story about Italian resistance to the Germans. (GP, A-2)

SUNFLOWER — Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni star in a tear-jerker about war-time separation. Locale: Italy and Russia. (G, A-3)

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO AUNT ALICE? — Suspense-horror movie about a widow who robs and then disposes of her housekeepers. (GP, A-3)



COMPOSER-AT-WORK — Robert W. Jones composes best when he is out of doors. Schoolcraft College's campus makes a good place.

Composer-In-Residence Writes For Community

By BETTY MASSON

In the realm of unusual occupations, a composer-in-residence has to have a lower — although in the case of Robert W. Jones it can't be ivory.

Jones is Observerland's composer-in-residence and has been for more than a year. He works for the area served by Schoolcraft College. And he's the man to see if you want a song composed, or if you are stuck on a cryptogram.

Jones' appointment came in July 1969 as part of a pilot project by the Contemporary Music Project, supported by funds from the Ford Foundation and from the Music Educators National Conference.

HE WAS ONE of three in the country appointed at that time to be available to an entire community. Before that, composers-in-residence had been named to serve school systems. Jones was one of the three.

So what is Jones involved in for a community? Chiefly as his title implies, he is involved in composing, and his current projects tie in with things going on in the area.

He is working on a large-scale opus for the Plymouth Symphony, commemorating its acquisition of a new home for its performances—the stage of the new Plymouth High School auditorium.

He is editing two works for publication, "Elmwood," a composition for band given its first local performance by the Schoolcraft College Winds, and "Though Leaves Are Many," written for the Plymouth High School Madrigal Singers.

Although it's uncertain when the Plymouth High auditorium and his new work will make their debut, the Plymouth Symphony is planning to play two of his compositions during its 1970-71 season. One is "Prelude for Alto Flute." The other is "Prelude and Celebration."

Besides the symphony selection, Jones is also working on a piece for organ and electronic tape to be published by Shawnee Press next year.

Although he calls himself a "middle-of-the-reader," in music, "leaning a little to the left," he is very interested in electronic sounds. He would like to have a sound laboratory at Schoolcraft to help in what he considers the next step in music, "the use of electronic mediums to create new kinds of sounds."

According to him, electronic sound systems can be improved so as to be performed upon like musical instruments, and he wants to take part in the explorations.

IN HIS SPARE time, he and his wife, Anne, are preparing a series of viola da gamba and harpsichord recitals for Schoolcraft College and St. Paul Cathedral in Detroit.

He has also assumed duties as organist at St. John Episcopal Church in Plymouth. He will be working again with Wayne Dunlap, head of Schoolcraft's music department and conductor of the Plymouth Symphony. Dunlap is the new choir director at St. John's.

Jones is tremendously interested in church music, calling himself a contemporary, although not fond of folk masses.

He believes that contemporary music for the church and for the organ is in a sad plight today, and he is looking forward to doing something about it at St. John. Jones is also beginning his second year as special adviser on contemporary music to the Commission on Church Music of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

Lastly in his agenda, he has just finished settling into and redecorating the Jones' new home on Church Street in Plymouth.

His work here has been a continuation of work begun when he was first granted the post of composer-in-residence for the West Hartford, Conn., public schools. It is "an effort to devise imaginative and effective means for developing an informed musical community at large," according to the purposes of the program under which he was hired.

SAYS JONES of his job: "I stand for common sense and communicability in music. For example 'Finnegan's Wake' is the biggest sonic put-on ever created. Yet 'Ulysses' (by the same author, James Joyce) is a fantastic feat in word painting."

If it is any indication of the future, Jones, after completing his first two years as composer-in-residence in Hartford, Conn., remained on the job when the citizens of the community agreed to take on full support of his activities.

In July Jones taught a class in composition in Schoolcraft's summer music school. He also taught, in August, a similar class at one of his alma maters, the University of Redlands, Redlands, Calif.

"Very stern suggestion" which teaching young people composition is all about. He encourages their creativity: "It's the beginning of their own voice," but he is strict about dealing with bad work habits, bad disciplinary habits and bad use of time.

According to him, a genius is a composer who "hits the heights of creativity more than he misses it." But also in his view the whole picture of creativity is changing. The spark is allowed to generate in many more people today and starving in a garret is no longer necessary.

In his work with young composers, he is not "teaching." He thinks he will have to make up a new word for what he does. "The art is not taught... I can teach them the rules but it doesn't become an art until it becomes part of the person... it's a personal self-generative thing," he said.

"BUT THERE is no art without the attendant discipline. I can teach these kids the rudiments, but I can't teach them the genius of composition."

Personally, he composes best out-of-doors, either walking or driving a car as fast as the law allows. "Nevada is the best place for that," he claims.

He relaxes with reading aloud to his wife, keeping up lifesaving certificates in swimming and in working puzzles. At one time he was an Air Force cryptographer and teletype operator; thus the help with the cryptograms.

Jones is happy in his work in Schoolcraft, but does have one small complaint. It has been suggested that he write a fight song for the college.

"How can I write a fight song for a school that doesn't have a football team?"

However when someone comes up with the words, he'll write fight songs before, both for the University of Redlands and for his Communications squad.



One-Acts To Tour

The Wayne Civic Players have set "Janus" directed by Bob Wagner, as their first play of the season. A situation comedy, it will be performed Oct. 22, 24, and 25.

The second play of the season will be "Haunting of Hill House," a thriller which will be presented Feb. 6, 8 and 7. Jacqueline Guernsey will be the director.

Instead of third play this year, the players will present "Cabaret Theater," a night of one-acts, March 14 and 15, in St. John's Episcopal Church, Wayne Rd., Westland. This will kick off the touring of one-acts the rest of the season. Any club or organization interested in the one-acts should contact the ticket chairman, Mrs. Ann Button, at 561-3183. Anyone interested in joining the players should also contact Mrs. Button.

S. Lyon Show Helps Library

The South Lyon Country Art and Crafts Show will be held Friday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the parking lot of the new South Lyon State Savings Bank. In case of rain the show will be in the bank's new basement.

The event is sponsored by The Friends of the South Lyon Public Library and all money from the entry donations will go towards the new addition to the library.

Area artists and craftsmen will have many different items on display and for sale. The Friends of the Library will have coffee, cider and donuts available.

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Amusements

BAA Gallery Tours Start In October

Gallery tours with the Bloomfield Art Association will be held during their year again Oct. 20, marking their fourth year of operation.

Scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month and leaving from the BAA parking lot at 9:30 a.m., tours include visits to area galleries, museums, artists studios and private art collections.

Traveling by chartered bus, gallery tourists follow a carefully planned itinerary which allows time for a leisurely perusal of the day's objective. Luncheons are pre-arranged and costs are moderate.

The nine tours run from October to June and, this year, will include trips to Windsor, Flint and Ann Arbor, as well as such nearby favorites as Detroit Institute of Arts, for special shows.

Individual tour reservations may be made on a space available basis at \$2.50 per tour.

Membership in the BAA is not necessary for tour participation. Participants come from all over the Metropolitan area and include newcomers and natives, the uninitiated as well as collectors and artists.

Reservations may be obtained by calling the Bloomfield Art Association, 644-0666.

'Civilisation' To Run On TV

"Civilisation," the exciting color series which describes 16 centuries of the great ideas and events in western civilization, will be broadcast on Channel 56 TV. The 13-week series will run on Wednesday evenings at 8:30 beginning Oct. 7.

Repeat broadcasts will be shown Sundays at 9 p.m.

THE ANNUAL subscription is