

By WALLY ROBERTS

'CURTAIN' GOING UP

"Hallelujah, Baby," a pair of musical depicting civil rights problems faced by African Americans during the past 60 years, opened last week at the Fisher Theater for a month's run.

On Broadway, Leslie Uggams did her best to make the musical entertaining. But the music by Jules Styne was drab, colorless and as melodious as a metronome. The book by Arthur Laurents had difficulty deciding whether the play was a social drama or a satiric comedy.

HOW THE New Yorkers stood for this musical longer than a month or so is a mystery. Of course, Theresa Merritt as Mama might have been the big reason for the show making any kind of run.

Miss Merritt, as her name would indicate, has plenty of merit and loads of talent. When she moves in on the scene, "Hallelujah, Baby" gives the audience reason to shout hurrahs. Old Wally rather suspect that Miss Merritt could take the telephone directory and get laughs out of the reading of such a venerable text.

If some Broadway producer is smart, he will get busy and find a decent musical comedy for her marvelous talent. Miss Merritt can take a song as she does in the second act and stop

the show. She has that quality you see only occasionally: stage presence, the ability to wrap an audience around her little finger is a joy to behold.

Adam Wade in the lead male role has some of that same magical quality. He almost has you believing the silly story that Arthur Laurents has written. But even Wade gets bogged down with dreary songs and a script that borders on the ridiculous most of the time.

"HALLELUJAH, BABY" tries to combine both a message and music. The author stresses the slave-like condition of the black man -- how we have done little or nothing to give him a chance to prove himself. But we have forced him to seek out action groups such as CORE, or other civil rights movements. The message gets too didactic and irritating since it is done in so banal a manner.

Kim Weston, who portrays the leading female role, shows us the road black folks have traveled. She does hit the top, Kim discovers that even this successful level has no acceptance with the general white public.

Communism, chauvinism, and a peek of other political side issues get stirred into "Hallelujah, Baby" until you

are ready to wonder when the entertainment is going to begin. And it does every now and then in the form of some brilliant dancing. The only problem is that there should have been more dancing and less dialogue.

AND THE music was a complete bore. In fact, old Wally has heard better in a recent rock musical, "Pittide," done by a former Plymouthite, Eric Morgeson. Incidentally, one of the top hits from that show has been recorded by "The Crystal Myths." Name of the song: "Many Things."

Margaret Wilson of Plymouth's Melody House reports that she can't keep a supply of records for all the folks wishing to buy Morgeson's hit song. It's on the Gordon label and you should drop in and hear the tune.

Butterfield Theatres of Ann Arbor

MICHIGAN / NO 5-6290

"CAMELOT"

1-3:45-6:30-9:10

STATE / NO 2-6264

5TH WEEK

Allen Park

"THE HEART IS A LONELY HUNTER"

CAMPUS / NO 8-6416

"Le Depart"

UNIVERSITY DRIVE-IN

Fri., Sat., Sun.

"THE SPLIT"

"DOUBLE TROUBLE"

Schoolcraft Sets 2 Classic Films

A Buster Keaton classic and a Laurel and Hardy comedy comprise a double-feature film program scheduled for the Schoolcraft College Film Series on Friday, Nov. 22 in the Liberal Arts Building Theater.

Showings are scheduled at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Keaton film, one of the comedian's most successful,

must remain nameless in advance publicity because of a contract stipulation by the distributor of the film to the college.

Laurel and Hardy will be seen in "Double Whoopee," released in 1929, one of the team's funniest.

The film includes a hilarious parody on Erich von Stroheim. Jean Harlow is seen in a bit part.



MAL KAI
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CAMELOT

Mme. Gilot To Lecture At Institute

Mme. Francoise Gilot, painter, printmaker and author of "Life With Picasso," will make two public lecture appearances at the Detroit Institute of Arts this month in connection with the exhibition, "Great Modern French Painting."

As the protégé of Pablo Picasso, she worked and studied under his direction from 1944

to 1954. She is the mother of Picasso's son, Claude, 21, who is a free-lance photographer for Life Magazine, and his daughter Paloma, 18, a university student.

Mme. Gilot has had one-man exhibitions in galleries in Paris, London, Venice, Düsseldorf, Lyon, Milan and Hamburg, as well as New York

and Dallas.

On Thursday, Nov. 21, she will open the Scholar's Choice lecture series at 1 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. Her subject is "Art and Artists in Paris."

Ticket price for the season of five lectures is \$10; tickets to single lectures will be available at the door at \$2.50 each.

CINEMA I
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SUN-1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

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SPECIAL GROUP RATES
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Quartet Schedules Concert

A concert by the Stanley Quartet of the University of Michigan will be presented at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15, in the Engineering Society of Detroit Auditorium, Rackham Educational Memorial, Detroit.

The concert is being sponsored by the University Center for Adult Education (WGU-US-EMU). Admission is \$2 with a reduced rate of \$1 for students.

Members of the quartet will perform Schubert's "Quartet in D Minor," No. 14 and Bartok's "Quartet in A Minor," No. 2.

Professor David Di Chiara, chairman of music at Oakland University, will offer an analysis of the Bartok selection before its performance.

find your own thing



7:30 Thur / Ugliest Girl in Town



9:30 Thur / Journey To The Unknown



9:00 Fri / Don Rickles



7:00 Sun / Land of the Giants



9:00 Mon / The Outcasts



7:30 Tues / Mod Squad



10:00 Tues / That's Life



7:30 Wed / Here Come The Brides

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MOVIE GUIDE

LA PARISIEN
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Peter Sellers - Claudine Longet
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In Color
Mat. Wed. 1 Show 1 p.m. - Adults \$1

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Dean Martin - Janice Rule
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Nathalie Wood - Robert Redford
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In Color
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3rd BIG FEATURE!
FRI-SAT-SUN ONLY
James Mason - Lynne Redgrave
"GEORGY GIRL"