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# ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING GUIDE

AUDREY KEARNS, Editor

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## FRONT ROW CENTER

Last night the late Lorraine Hansberry's play "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window" opened a three week engagement at the Hartford Theatre in Hollywood. Gabriel Dell, one of the original Dead End Kids, plays Sidney—a visionary Greenwich Village intellectual with a penchant for unsuccessful business ventures. His latest is the ownership of a weekly newspaper—and the sign in the window is a plea

for "personal" items for the paper. . . .

BALLET comes to Long Beach when the Theatre Arts Foundation presents tomorrow night and Saturday afternoon the premier performances of two new ballets with choreography by Valerie Silver. Set to the music of Glazunov is "The Dancing Princesses" while the charming music of Strauss creates the background for "The

Puppet-Showman." The performances take place in Lakewood High School Auditorium at 440 Briercreek, Lakewood.

Theater Arts Foundation came into being over seven years ago through the efforts of friends and parents who believed that the arts should be a more important part of the lives of the people in the community. Since ballet brings together all the arts—music, drama, dance and the visual arts in scenery and costumes—the emphasis has been on ballet productions. Leading dance roles are performed by talented young dancers, some of whom aspire to professional careers. In the forthcoming productions dancers are Diane Raczek of Palos Verdes, Hope Henry, Reva Pincusoff, Lolita Chapel, Kathy McFadden and Christine Mills. Also Bill Tarpy, Michael Quinn, Rick Larsen, Dennis Graham, and James Mercer.

OVER THE FOOTLIGHTS. The answer to "Where's Charley?" will be given next week on April 29 when the Long Beach Light Opera production opens in the Concert Hall of the Municipal Auditorium. This is the show, based on the play "Charley's Aunt," in which Ray Bolger starred on Broadway. Seen as Charley will be Bill Beadie. The show will be presented through May 9th with matinees on May 2nd and May 9th in addition to the evening performances. For tickets call HE 2-7926 . . . Last night in Melodyland the one and only Jimmy Durante opened a six-day engagement. With him are Eddie Jackson, Sonny King and Joe & Eddie, as well as special guest star Jane Morgan, not to forget the famous lineup of showgirls who always "assist" Jimmy in the "difficult work" Durante calls it . . . Of tremendous interest are the costumes designed and created by Mable Monteleone for "Becket," the Jean Anouilh's play currently at the Chapel Theatre in Torrance. Mable did a superb job of costuming for "Shanghai Gesture" as well as "Volpone" and the brilliant colors, materials and styles of the 16th Century are authentically shown in "Becket."



STIRRING FILM . . . Charles Heston in "Major Dundee," now showing at United Artists Theatre in Torrance, surveys the country around the fort.



"CRITIC'S CHOICE" . . . is the play which opens Friday at the Palos Verdes Playhouse in Malaga Cove Plaza. Doris Welton is trying to break up a scene during rehearsal of the comedy.



MIGHTY . . . Earl Grant stars for the concert-dance set at the Hollywood Palladium Sunday from 5 to 10 p.m. in a benefit for the scholarship fund established by Eta Pi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

## Stage Review

It is seldom we are privileged to observe a fiction of a man transferred on the stage by superior acting into a vibrant personality. The audience at the Actor's Theatre in Hollywood last week was so privileged, while attending the opening of "Abraham Lincoln" by John Drinkwater.

John Anderson's interpretation of "Honest Abe" as he traversed the horizon of history between 1860-1865 was magnificent. Here was more than an actor portraying a beloved martyred president. Here was the great nineteenth century president and man before us, in the twentieth century. Mr. Anderson's every movement brought to mind some facet of this late, great man. A nod of the head and Gettysburg fell before our eyes; a movement of the hand or shift of the brow and the tortured feelings of a tortured man were before all to see.

"Abraham Lincoln" as dramatized by John Drinkwater in less gifted hands might be accused of sentimentality. This was not true with Mr. Anderson's interpretation. His portrayal of Mr. Lincoln must go down as one of the definitive interpretations of this beloved man in our century.

What would Abraham Lincoln have been without Mary Todd? This woman to whom popular history has been so cruel was portrayed by Bea Silvern with a slightly different approach than this viewer has previously seen. Rather than being the overbearing shrew, Mary Todd was a warm woman, who, unsure of herself, saw in Abraham his potential greatness and was determined to see him blossom forth.

The production was presented in a professional and polished manner. Deserving of high praise is the adaptation and direction by Corey Allen, who also appeared in various roles throughout the play. Elizabeth, the Lincoln's negro maid, was sensitively portrayed by Kim Hamilton. Bill Quinn as Seward, Ellen Leslie and Claudia Bryar as Mrs. Blow and Mrs. Otherly, respectively, also deserve high praise.

Drinkwater's "Abraham Lincoln" is the second in a series of repertory plays presented by the Actor's Theatre



HING HING SWINGS . . . No wonder the Cantonese food at the Hing Hing is so popular. It is prepared in true Cantonese style on authentic range brought here from San Francisco by owner Ernie Wong (left).



MILLIE APPROVES . . . looking over the new menu at her sea-side restaurant, Millie Riera's Scafood Grotto, the owner-hostess seems happy with the results.

Repertory Company, the first being "Waiting for Godot." "Godot" is presented at the Oxford Street theater every Monday and Tuesday nights; the balance of the week will have "Abraham Lincoln" on the boards.

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You should fertilize with an all-fish fertilizer monthly. For aphid and mildew you can use your nicotine-copper rose spray. Not many other pests bother dahlias.

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And at the Torrance and Wilmington Shakey's Pizza Palace there are also regular free giant pizzas for two every Friday night. The drawings are held at 10 p.m. Friday nights—THAT'S the witching hour at SHAKEY'S!

MAGNIFICENT SERVICE and superb food are always on tap in the Penthouse Restaurant of The International Hotel at the Airport. Last week we lucky press people were invited to a first anniversary dinner in the Penthouse, with cocktails first in that Top of the International Hotel Lounge. What a view—and what delicious hors d'ouvres, not to mention the libations! The dinner started out with Crepes Madres, continued with Salade Verte Panachee, to the entree

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