

# Sugar Cane Alley: Fantastic!

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amount of the scholarship offered for Jose's schooling is paltry compared to the sum that Ma Tine must raise to send him on. Working to raise the balance of his tuition becomes the challenge that eventually costs her her life. An old woman to begin with, she assumes that responsibility in order to save Jose from the fate of so many of their people and out of the love she bears for this remarkable child.

In school, Jose earns the respect of his teachers, while, like any young boy, forming close friendships with other students and participating in his own share of school-boy pranks. He is ambitious in the best sense of the word by gleaning all that he can from his education, and he is generous with his knowledge as he, in turn, teaches another friend, a young boat captain, how to read and write. Palcy has created in Jose a convincing character who is a charming mixture of child and adult as is typical of any adolescent. Jose blends well into the adult world around him, yet he is still very much a part of the children of his village.

*Sugar Cane Alley* contains all of the elements of good drama: plot, cohesiveness, humor, suspense, and pathos. It

contains, as well, a sensitivity to the human condition that has allowed one race to exploit another in the name of civilization and economics. Ms. Palcy criticizes the exploitation of her people and dispels the myth of the legitimacy of such exploitation without resorting to rancorous accusations against the plantation owners of her island and whites everywhere. She uses this story to illustrate her message: people are people. The values, feelings, relationships, hopes and desires they experience are universal in scope, while personal in expression. Unlike the ticket-seller in the film who cannot bring herself to integrate her black identity with her white aspirations, Palcy makes a convincing argument in the person of Jose that the differences between blacks and whites lie not so much in color but in perspective. Jose eventually moves out of Black Shack Alley, but he is not ashamed to take Black Shack Alley with him.

By the time this review appears in print, *Sugar Cane Alley* may have finished its run at the Carolina. It was so popular in Durham that we hope a Raleigh theater will be interested in showing it.

# Sugar Cane Alley: A disappointment

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part, he-she is definitely rewarded. Throughout the film, Jose's grandmother is presented as his savior; we perceive her as Christlike. It seems only fitting that Jose prepares her for burial by washing her feet, thus bringing the audience closer to the image of the grandmother as a messiah.

The second theme, as previously noted, is the dominant white culture. Here, I was moved...right into a fit of anger. Throughout the remainder of the film, I had an unfair and biased picture of the white race shoved down my throat. During the last scenes of the film, whites are portrayed as cheating, inhumane, and selfish creatures. I bit my lip when it occurred to me that every member of the black race shown in the film was striving to achieve what the white race was said to already possess: money, power, and social position. One character, a black

boarding house clerk, says that she's ashamed of her race and, furthermore, considers herself to be white. Irony at its best, I suppose?

In spite of its flaws, *Sugar Cane Alley* suggests a moral for people of all nationalities and races: whatever we become or achieve in life, we are never able to erase the lines of our heritage. At some point in time, we must all return to our homeland, at least in spirit, if not body. Jose's grandmother returns to the village to await her death. Jose's elderly friend, who is often his spiritual guide, exemplifies this best by saying that when he dies, he will at last be able to return to his Africa.

I left the Carolina theater feeling cheated, not only of my money, but of my time as well. It is my opinion that *Sugar Cane Alley* is not the film to see if one wants to experience a well-written script. The actors must, however, be given credit having made the most of what they were given.

## Twig Trivia Game

WIN A FREE PIZZA IN THE TWIG TRIVIA GAME

How to play: Answer the questions on Cornhuskin'

and be the first to turn in the correct answers to 113 Hellman.

[And- no cheating girls! That's a no no!]

1. What was the traditional "clothing before shirts?"
2. How did Cornhuskin' get its name?
3. Who started Cornhuskin'?
4. When was Cornhuskin' started?
5. When is Cornhuskin' held (yearly)?

## NCSU Center Stage: Critics' series

THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH  
THE ACTING COMPANY  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1984

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1985, 8:00 P.M.

TORCH SONG TRILOGY  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1985, 7:30 P.M.

CEREMONIES IN DARK OLD MEN  
THE NEGRO ENSEMBLE COMPANY  
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1985, 8:00 PM

FOR MORE INFO: 737-3104

## October 1984 Senior Class Activity Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3 Paint the Beehive! 1:00-6:00pm 9:00-5:00 Jewelry Sale	4 Paint the Beehive! 1:00-6:00pm 9:00-5:00 Jewelry Sale	5	6	7
8	9	10 Little Sister Dinner 5:00 in Bell	11	12	13 FALL BREAK begins at 5:00	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 "Friday the 13th" Dress Up in Costumes
22	23	24	25	26 Sr. Class Meeting 10:00 AM 1st Hellman	27	28 Jones Aud. Cornhuskin' Practice 6:00-6:50
29 Jones Aud. Cornhuskin' Practice 7:00-7:50	30 Jones Aud. Cornhuskin' Practice 8:00-8:50	31 Jones Aud. Cornhuskin' Practice 9:00-9:50				

- ACROSS
- 1 Danger
  - 6 Part of step
  - 11 Mock
  - 12 Wears away
  - 14 Preposition
  - 15 Unadorned
  - 17 Fiber plant
  - 18 Perform
  - 20 Go in
  - 22 Youngster
  - 23 Unit of Italian currency
  - 25 Drain
  - 27 French pronoun
  - 28 Strikes
  - 30 Swiftly
  - 32 Country of Asia
  - 34 Tardy
  - 35 Train of attendants
  - 38 Bread ingredient
  - 41 Man's nickname
  - 42 Sweetheart: arch.
  - 44 Wild plum
  - 45 Plunge
  - 47 Yellowish organic substance
  - 49 Transgress
  - 50 Mine entrance
  - 52 Nerve networks
  - 54 Army officer: abbr.
  - 55 Part of eye
  - 57 Habituates
  - 59 Shoulder covering
  - 60 Scraped together
- DOWN
- 1 Writing
  - 2 Teutonic deity
  - 3 Tear
  - 4 Unemployed
  - 5 Inclines
  - 6 Restoration
  - 7 Negative prefix
  - 8 Soak up
  - 9 Redact
  - 10 Sell to consumer
  - 11 Watch faces
  - 13 Gloomily
  - 16 Roman road
  - 19 Characteristic
  - 21 Remunerate
  - 24 A month
  - 26 Ceremonies
  - 29 More rational
  - 31 Transactions shelters
  - 33 Denoting number
  - 35 Detecting device
  - 36 Slurs
  - 37 Comfort
  - 39 Dirtied
  - 40 Temporary
  - 43 Potassium nitrate
  - 46 Substance
  - 48 One of
  - Columbus's ships
  - 51 Aunt in Madrid
  - 53 Diving bird
  - 56 Compass point
  - 58 Note of scale

**CROSS WORD PUZZLE**  
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