

Just So Much Noise

A Review

By Kelvin A. Bell

It's a strange feeling to be led into an empty theatre, as was the case when we attended NCCU's opening of "America Hurrah." This peculiar feeling was not diminished as we were led, rather mysteriously, to the back of the stage and taken by elevator to the basement.

If one, by chance, had made it this far without realizing that there was definitely something different about this play, now was the time for that realization. Instead of the usual splendor of the University Theatre, we were now within the dingy throws of NCCU's Scene Shop, which Director Randolph Umberger, had already deemed "an ugly place where sweat creates illusions of beauty for others."

This time there were no illusions. Just an ugly place. . . and sweat. I think this was their intent, but it seemed, unfortunately, no less strange.

We were before a small platform with seating on three sides as the rather paradoxical look at activities in America began. The multi-phasic representations beginning with "The Interview" led us through a series of eight-person dialogues and a multiplicity of action which captivated, amused, confused, and turned us off.

The congestion of imagery, from the zany to the bizarre, led us from the despondent inhumanity which man faces

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The Best of Friends (TBOF) now are owners of five entertainment complexes in NYC: Leviticus International on West 33rd St.; Justine at 500 Eighth Ave.; Trixx, on Linden Blvd. in Queens; Bogards on East 48th St. and Brandi, on Washington Ave. in Brooklyn.

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Singer Lola Falana didn't have to appear after all before a Federal grand jury in New Haven, Conn. that had subpoenaed her along with Las Vegas Aladdin Hotel owner-singer Wayne Newton and their attorney which was investigating organized crime. Lola, who heads the star lineup at the Aladdin, was excused from appearing.

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Motown's Berry Gordy came up a winner with Argument, the one million dollar horse of which he's now half-owner. Argument won the \$250,000 Washington, D.C. International. Gordy admitted that winning a major race was "more intense" than coming up with a new hit record.

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Strange ads appearing in NYC daily newspapers advertising the closed circuit return match between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran. They list telephone numbers for all sites showing the championship fight except the two in Harlem, the 369th Regiment Armory and Broadway International.

and perpetuates in daily activities, to "TV," a look at its interactive effect on our lives, and culminated with "Motel," a representation of how we

consume and then destroy — as the motel room was destroyed before our eyes. Having somewhat offended sensibilities and having no true

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ending, the play's best points lay in providing a forum through which we might be made more aware of ourselves and of human attitudes.

Whatever else, the overriding perception of the play indicated that it was just so much noise. . . and, hopefully, America is more than that.

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