

Porgy And Bess: Warm, Flammable

By DONNA REIFSNIDER
DTH Staff Writer

Porgy and Bess is one of the most heart warming and one of the most flammable films ever to be shown in this section of the country.

Local producers were reluctant to show it over southern networks when it first came out—a time when civil rights threatened to spew into volcanic proportions.

But Sunday night the film, featuring such well-known Negro performers as Sidney Poitier and Dorothy Dandridge was shown on channel 5 in Raleigh.

And it spilled forth in all its colorful pageantry of a Negro sium called Catfish Row.

Briefly, the musical is a love story between Bess, a beautiful seductress, and Porgy, a crippled beggar with a heart as large as all mankind.

With acting that is tender and compassionate the two sing and act their way into the hearts of the audience.

Bess, who runs from the police after her lover, Crown, murders a man, seeks refuge

with her people. They coldly turn her away as a "woman of the devil." In desperation as the police wagon approaches, she runs into Porgy's (played by Sidney Poitier) hovel and asks shelter. Kindly, he tells her she can stay as long as she likes.

And that she does. No longer caught in the tyranny of her old lover, Bess comes to love Porgy.

Realizing their love, the two sing the well known "Bess, you is My Woman Now."

For the next half hour, the two are very happy and the story is filled with the color and mellow songs of the Negro people as they take off on a gay and frolicsome picnic. At the picnic Sportin' Life steals the scene with a jazzy rendition of "It Ain't Necessarily So" that turns into a glorious hallelujah time for all.

A hurricane breaks, symbolic of the trouble ahead. The hurricane leaves Bess with an orphaned child and the threat of Crown's return to take her away.

Crown returns in stealth one night to Bess and Porgy's bungalow. Porgy discovers him skulking by the window. In the struggle that ensues, Crown pulls a knife and accidentally falls on it.

The next morning the police come and take Porgy away for questioning. Sportin' Life, always hovering near, gives the distraught Bess a drug to ease her sorrow and then tells her Porgy will never come back.

Bess believes him and follows him to New York. But Porgy returns. His grief when he finds what has happened has no bounds.

Hitching himself in a little wagon pulled by his goat, he vows to travel to New York, 1000 miles away to search for his love.

If perhaps the plot is a little far-fetched the beautiful, lilting music makes up for it two-fold. It doesn't disillusion one to know that the voices are dubbed. "Summertime" was never more soulful, "I Can't Sit Down" never so jolly.



The Windows are up, and a breeze slips down Bingham's cool halls and catches a student finishing his assignment.

—DTH Photo by Jock Lauterer

Rare Byrd Charlie Sets Concert Here

Charlie Byrd is a rare breed of musician, both as a brilliant jazzman and as one of the world's great classical performers.

The guitar giant has come to international fame through his swinging, melodic combo jazz and impressive recitals of sixteenth century guitar music.

A student of Andres Segovia, Byrd's playing is characterized by extraordinary, supple technique; warmth and fullness of tone; and a capacity to sustain flowing melo-

dic lines. Although he plays some electric guitar in his jazz role, Byrd is refreshing in his skill at improving jazz on an unamplified concert guitar without a pick.

As a professional Byrd, a life-long performer, has captured virtually every major award available to a guitarist, climaxing his rise to fame with a White House performance in 1964.

He has been winner of the Downbeat Magazine poll and the Playboy magazine poll as well as appearing on numerous TV shows.

Byrd will appear in Memorial Hall on Saturday, March 11 at 7:00 PM with Father Malcolm Boyd. UNC students will be admitted free.



CHARLIE BYRD

Changes Mind

ASHFORD, England (UPI)—Talk about women changing their minds!

Carpenter Ted Knight, 47, was just about out of the harbor aboard the Italian liner Fairseat enroute to Australia as an emigrant when he decided he was making a mistake and told the captain. A harbor launch was near enough to be summoned and Knight was put aboard.

Back home with his wife, Gladys, and two daughters, he said, "I just couldn't bear the thought of not seeing my family for a long time."

Said Gladys, "It was good to get him back. We haven't been separated in 23 years."

The fare, \$484, was forfeited.

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Math Not Our Cup Of Tea

CHICAGO (AP) — American students fared poorly in an international study of how well students in 12 countries learn mathematics, a group of educators reported today.

The study, conducted by the International Project for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement, showed that the United States is among the least effective of 12 countries tested in developing mathematics talent.

Educators cited the highly comprehensive education system in the United States and lack of opportunity to learn some phases of mathematics as reasons for the poor showing of American students.

Japan appeared to do the best over - all job of mathematics instruction in public schools.

"The differences (between countries) really begin to show up at the seventh and eighth grade levels," Maurice L. Hartung of the University of Chicago told a news conference. Hartung was one of five American educators who participated in the project.

Prize Writers To Speak

Three prize-winning North Carolina writers are to speak in Raleigh Friday, March 16 at the twelfth annual North Carolina Literary Forum, at 8 p.m. in the Erdahl-Cloyd Union, North Carolina State University.

Authors Sylvia Wilkinson, Reynolds Price and Max Steele will all address the topic "The Writer's Role," in a panel to be moderated for the twelfth consecutive year by Raleigh editor and poet Sam Ragan.

Open to the public without charge, the forum is co-sponsored by the Union and the Raleigh Woman's Club. As usual, the audience will be

invited to ask questions of the writers and to have coffee with them following the program.

Miss Wilkinson, of Durham, teaches English at William and Mary College in Virginia. Following publication in 1966 of her widely acclaimed first novel, Moss on the North Side, she was named by Mademoiselle Magazine as one of the four "most exciting women in America."

Former Raleigh resident, Reynolds Price, a member of the faculty at Duke, has published three volumes, the latest (1966) being A Generous Man. A movie is being made of his first novel, A Long and

Happy Life, which won the North Carolina Literary and Historical Society's 1962 Sir Walter Raleigh award for fiction.

The recipient of a national Arts and Humanities grant, he is currently on leave to work on a second volume of short stories, an earlier collection having been published in 1963 as The Names and Faces of Heroes.

Note: Students will especially enjoy these young writers—and students will be especially welcomed at this year's Forum.
Elizabeth Reid

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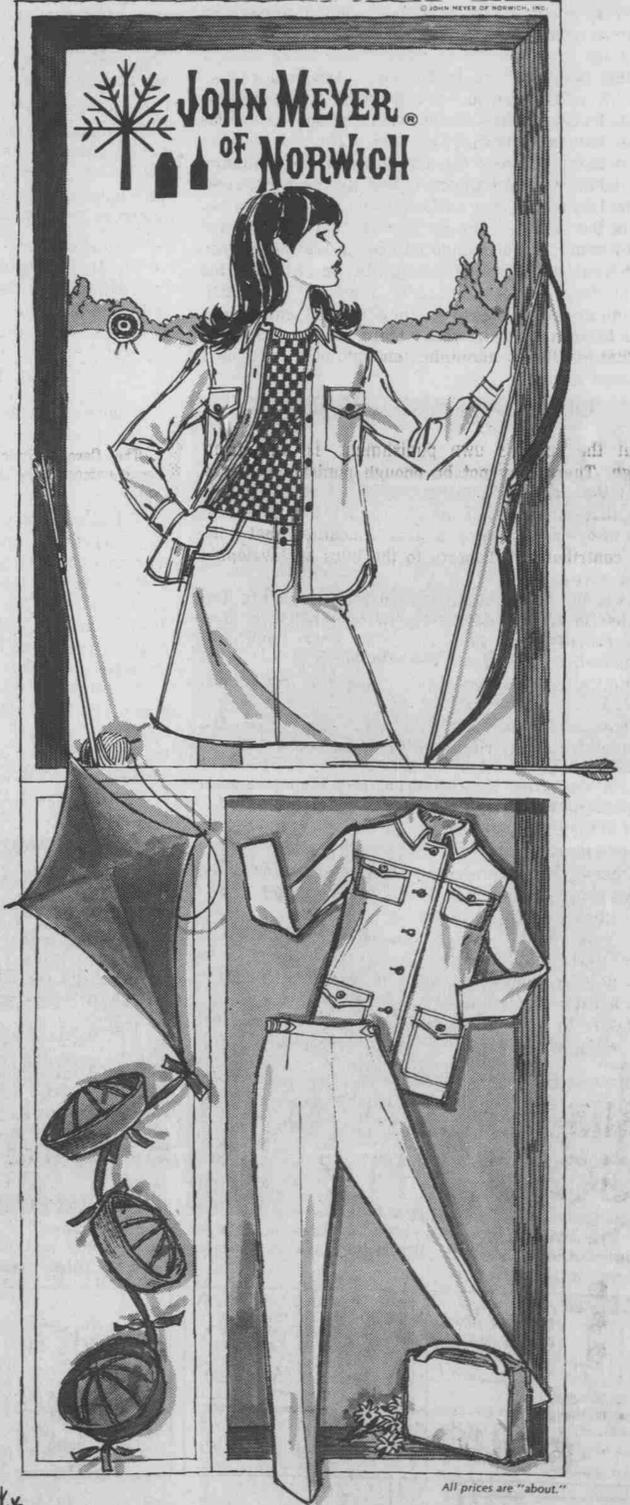
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