

Rehearsals are nearing the finish as the Gaston College

Fine Arts Council and the Drama Program prepare for

the opening of "The Amen Corner." The all black cast

exudes excitement as they bang their tamborines and

shout to the Lord under the tutelage of Sister Margaret

Alexander and under the watchful eye of director Jay Rogers. The spring production is in full swing as this tremendous play by James Baldwin, author of *Go Tell It On The Mountain* and *Notes of a Native Son*, prepares for opening night.

"The Amen Corner" is the moving story of a Harlem storefront church and their spiritual leader, Sister Margaret, played by Gaston College student, June Reid. Sister Margaret has rejected her husband and dominated her son in order to answer what she believes to be the call of the Lord. With dramatic eloquence, Mr. Baldwin shows how the poverty and frustrations of life in black ghettos cause many of their inhabitants to turn to religion as an evasion of reality. Sister Margaret harangues her flock and her family but gradually they turn away from her and in the end she loses everything. The closing scene is one of the most daring and effective in American drama, combining, as it does, Sister Margaret's desperation and tears with the recognition of her farcical pretense. She is left disillusioned but joyously fortified. A beautiful play both visually and musically, that should be seen to be appreciated.

The production itself should prove to be highly stimulating. The setting, designed and constructed by Chris McKinney, will consist of various levels which, though giving no specific information about the time or locale of the play, heightens the mood of this serious drama. This type of setting has not been used in this area to any great degree, and it should prove to be highly interesting.

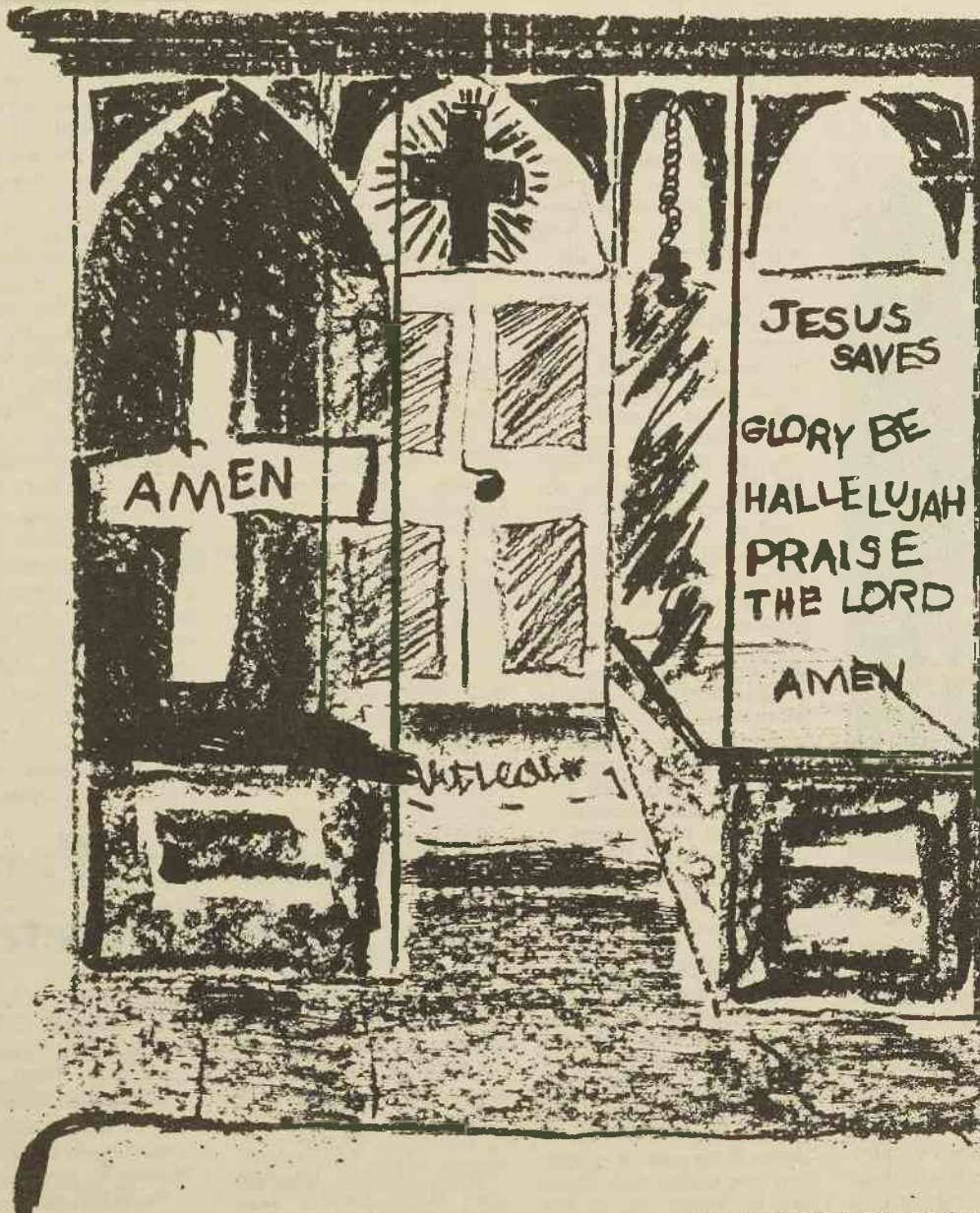
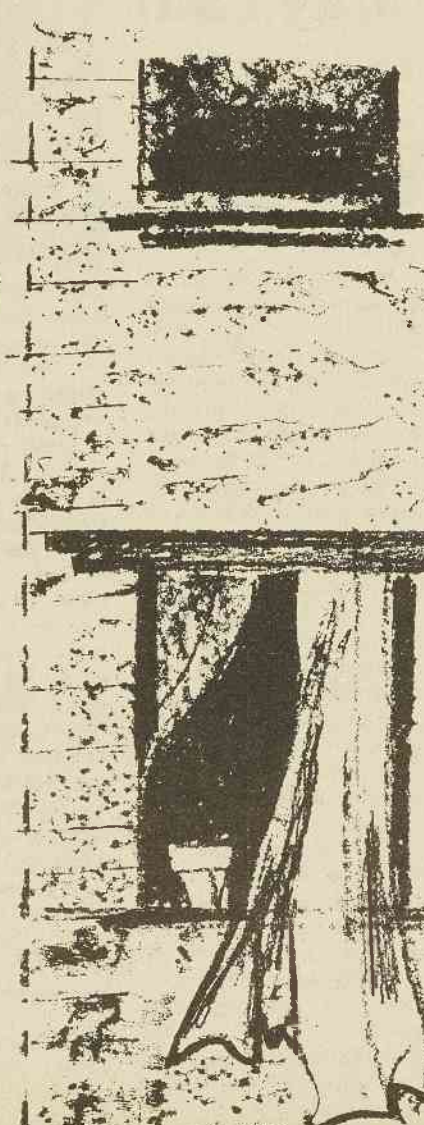
The cast of "The Amen Corner" includes, in addition to Miss Reid, Vivian Avery as Odessa, Cynthia Harrington as Ida Jackson, Linda Neely as Sister Moore, Delouise Barringer as Sister Boxer with Robert Wilson as her husband, Brother Boxer. Davis, Sister Margaret's eighteen-year-old son, who plays the piano for the church but wants to be a jazz musician like his father will be played by Darryll Howell. Other members of the congregation include Cynthia McClure, Lorain Adams, and Jessie Adams.

This will be the fourth play to be produced in the Myers Center Auditorium since its opening last year. Each one has been an enjoyable seeing experience with all the production being artistically successful. However, attendance has been at a minimum. The arts must be supported if they are to succeed and flourish. There is a magic in the theatre that can be experienced by all, at a cheaper cost than you can see a motion picture. And seeing a live play proves to be much more exciting. Support the arts, the things that make man great, on Gaston College's campus.

Amen

THE AMEN CORNER

by James Baldwin



presented by

Gaston College
Fine Arts Council

MAY 12, 13,
19, 20
1978
8p.m.

Myers Center
Auditorium
\$2.50 general admission
\$1.00 students