

# Diamond Studs

'Happiest, singing-est show' held over today

by Rick Sebak  
Staff Writer

Well, seeing as how I'm just a goddamn Yankee, I may not know anything, but if there's a better show going on anywhere in the North, I'll hang myself in the plum tree. *Diamond Studs* is without a doubt the finest, happiest, singing-est show I've ever seen in these parts, and it'd be mighty hard to name a better one I've ever seen anywhere else.

C.C. Porkbarrel, former banker and published author, is proudly presenting this incredible Horse Opera in Two Acts with the fine help of the Southern States Fidelity Choir, the Red Clay Ramblers, the OK Corral and a couple of stragglers. I wouldn't hesitate to recognize it as the Great American Musical that everybody's been waiting for.

Jim Wann and Bland Simpson are probably two of the most outstanding living talents that have ever graced the stage, and if their play doesn't make it in the bigtime, I'll be mighty surprised.

Wann not only wrote the music and lyrics with Simpson, but he also put the story together, and on top of that, he plays the guitar and the main character, Jesse James. And Simpson, besides playing a mighty fine piano, passes himself off as everybody from Governor Crittendon of Missouri to Pancho Villa of Mexico. I tip my hat to both of them, and would feel deeply honored to shake their hands.

They apparently got some fine help from the right honorable John L. Haber, who directed the thing, and Patricia Birch, who staged the musical numbers. The whole show moves with the power of a locomotive, and these two people evidently were shoveling most of the coal into the stoker.

The whole gang of players is goddamn remarkable. If they don't sing with a goldenrod voice, they make up for it with some fancy pickin' or poundin'. It appears that most of them can do just about everything.

Along with Jim and Bland, the other people in the show deserve a load of special praise, Madelyn Smoak as Miss Belle Starr stole the heart of every real man in the house, and won the respect of every lady with her song "I Don't Need a Man to Know I'm Good." Seems that she did some thigh-thumpin' with old Cole Younger who's played by Thommy Thompson, a veritable mountain of a fellow. He also portrays Jesse's momma in some scenes, and I can't say there was a moment when I

didn't believe him.

John Foley as Bob Ford has a special kind of sinister magic. Although he plays the most despicable guy in the show, he never stoops so low as to be a run-of-the-mill villain. His final scene with Jesse is a classic.

Rick Simpson is great as Jesse's brother, Frank, and his stage presence is remarkable. Mike Sheehan bangs a mean set of drums, announces parts of the show, leads the Federales in Mexico, and does a fine job as the legendary Allan Pinkerton, rotten detective.

Jim Watson sings many a good song and unfortunately gets locked up in the same jail with Bob Ford.

Cindy Gooch Huntley is angelic and sweet-voiced as Jesse's wife, and Frances Tamburro, the third member of the female trio, dances wildly across the stage with a rose in her teeth.

Jan Davidson, Bill Hicks, Mike Craver and Scott Bradley make up the rest of the on-stage set, and there's not a sour note in the group. There are barroom beauties who wander around the saloon and the perfect final touch to the environment. For a couple hours I was truly transported into a happier time in the Wild West of the eighteen-hundreds.

Most of the songs are foot-stompers; some are old familiars, and some are newly composed. It's often hard to tell which are which, but the show-stopping numbers are the originals. The Messrs. Wann and Simpson can only be thanked kindly for filling in some of the gaps in our folk music with songs like "These Southern States That I Love," "Northfield Minnesota," and "Saloon Piano."

Unlike a lot of musicals you'll find these days, this one even has a good book, with the life of Jesse James as its plot. The jokes are actually funny, and the talented invention which went into all aspects of the production is especially evident in the dialogue.

I maybe should have hesitated before I went hog-wild and praised this show to the hilt, but even with the highest of expectations, you couldn't be the least bit disappointed. If you'd begun to think that the theatre in these parts was dying fast, then *Diamond Studs* will surely change your mind. You may have to fight or kill for a ticket, but I suggest you do, for if it isn't a national phenomenon real soon, it'll surely be a legend in its own time.



Two members of the Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre pose in a scene from the group's presentation, on view next week in Memorial Hall.

## KALEIDOSCOPE

### Cinema

"Captain Blood"—Dashing Errol Flynn and lovely Olivia de Havilland made this, their first swashbuckler, for Warner Brothers in 1935, and it started a fashion (and an image, for Flynn) which didn't let up until 1948. These films were exquisitely photographed—many won Oscars for cinematography—and the music was appropriately grand. (Carolina, Plaza 1)

today at 1 and 4 p.m., \$1.50 or subscription.)  
"Private Lives"—Noel Coward's urbane and sophisticated comedy of the late 1920's has Amanda and Elyot, formerly married to each other, celebrating their honeymoons (with new spouses) in adjoining apartments on the French Riviera. (Wednesday at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Greenlaw Auditorium, \$1, the Alternative Cinema American Comedy Series.)  
"The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie"—Sight and sound critic Jonathan Rosenbaum called it "Bunuel's funniest and most relaxed and controlled film." (Varsity, shows at 1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05 and 9 p.m. \$2.25.)

"The Pedestrian"—Maximilian Schell's impressive drama of Nazi guilt was applauded at the London Film Festival and nominated for a Best Foreign Language Oscar last year. (Plaza 3, at 3:10, 5:10, 7:10 and 9:10 p.m., \$2.25.)  
"The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz"—The most successful Canadian film in history has proved to be an equally popular success in America—and at the Berlin Film Festival a few months ago, where it won first prize. (Carolina, at 2:30, 4:40, 6:50 & 9 p.m. \$2.25.)  
"That's Entertainment"—That's 130 minutes of highly enjoyable strolling through movie musical history. (Plaza 2, at 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m., \$2.25.)  
"The Castaway Cowboy" and "The Absent-Minded Professor"—A Disney double-feature. (Plaza 1, "Cowboy" at 3:15 and 7 p.m., "Professor" at 5 and 8:45 p.m., \$2.25.)

up at the Lab Office on the south mezzanine of Graham Memorial.  
Held over, "Diamond Studs," the musical portrayal of the life of Jesse James at 9 p.m. today at The Ranch House. Tickets, \$2. Call 942-5155 for reservations.  
Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" at 8:15 p.m. Wednesday through Friday in B.N. Duke Auditorium at North Carolina Central University in Durham. Tickets, \$1 in advance and \$1.50 at the door. Call 682-2171, ext. 242 for information.  
Tickets, \$1.50, are now available at the Union desk for the Soviet Georgian Dancers' performance at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 through Saturday, Nov. 2 in Reynolds Coliseum on the N.C. State campus in Raleigh.  
Tickets, \$2, for the performance of the Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22 in Memorial Hall are now on sale at the Union desk.

## Money

Continued from page 1

was \$1,407,904; and by fiscal year 1974, had risen to \$1,932,987. Geer expects another increase in federal funds this year, but fears that federal budget cutbacks may prevent this increase from being sufficient to meet the increasing need.

"If one could predict," said Geer, "I am convinced that next year is going to be a difficult year for students."

Geer sees inflation as causing only a part of the increased demand for student aid. The other part, he feels, is accounted for by a general increase in enrolled students from low-income families.

This is a trend he hopes, and expects, to continue, but which amplifies the strain on the aid office.

Because most aid comes in the form of loans, not all needy students are anxious for help from the financial aid office. Jim Haney, a sophomore, received assistance last year but cancelled it this year. "Right now I'm already in debt \$400 to the University, and it stifles my whole future," said Haney. "When I get out of school I'd like to be free to try some different things, and the pressure to pay back this debt will be forcing me to get a job when I get out and try and pay back the loan."

Haney is now earning \$2.25 an hour working at the Bio-Statistics Computer Center in the School of Public Health. Although this job eliminates most of his

spare time, Haney prefers working to being in debt.

These loans are to be repaid with 3 per cent interest over a ten-year period after the student's graduation.

Students are better at paying their debts than most people, Geer said, adding that his office collects on nearly all its loans. Failures to repay are usually the result of death or occasionally, bankruptcy.

One million dollars was also awarded in scholarships during 1973-74, and approximately \$500,000 was appropriated in the form of grants.

In addition to loans, scholarships and grants, the student aid office sponsors a work-study program in which students work 5 to 15 hours per week, undergraduates receiving \$2 an hour and graduates, \$2.50. Last year 1328 students participated in the program and earned an average of \$441, and a total of \$586,018. Students are paid by the aid office and work at various specified jobs both on and off campus.

Most students who receive aid are given a package that includes a combination of loan, grant, scholarship and work-study funds. Short term emergency loans are also available to students who develop unforeseen financial problems during the year.

For the most part, Geer feels his office is fulfilling its obligation. "The test in a democracy is protest," he said, "and we receive little or no protest."

### Plaza 1

NOW PLAYING Call Theatre For Shows

SOUTH SEA ISLAND ADVENTURE!

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS  
**THE CASTAWAY COWBOY**  
STARRING JAMES GARNER Vera MILES and Robert CULP  
TECHNICOLOR®  
Released by BUENA VISTA DISTRIBUTION CO. INC.  
© 1954 Walt Disney Productions

PLUS THIS HILARIOUS CO-HIT

Walt Disney's  
**The Absent-Minded Professor**

### abc southeastern Theatres

SHOWS  
2:30-4:40  
6:50-9:00

CAROLINA  
"A MASTERPIECE!"  
—Rex Reed, N.Y. Daily News

"A SIMPLY STUNNING PORTRAIT BY RICHARD DREYFUSS, WHO DID SO WELL IN AMERICAN GRAFFITI!"  
—Judith Crist, New York Magazine

A Paramount Release  
International Cinema-Central Ltd. Presents  
A TED KOTCHEFF Film  
**THE APPRENTICESHIP OF DUDDY KRAVITZ**  
PG

### Theatre

Auditions for "Preludes V," from the work of T.S. Eliot, will be held at 7 p.m. today in 103 Bingham. Call 933-2313 for information.  
The UNC Readers present Truman Capote's "Children on Their Birthdays" at 8 p.m. today and at 8 & 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Union Snack Bar. Admission is free.  
Carolina Playmakers' production of Lillian Hellman's "The Little Foxes," directed by Tommy Rezzuto, will be at 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday in Playmakers Theatre. Tickets, \$2.50, are on sale at the Playmakers Business Office, 102 Graham Memorial, or at Ledbetter-Pickard downtown.  
The Lab Theatre presents Genet's "The Maids" at 4 & 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday in 06 Graham Memorial. Free tickets may be picked

### Music

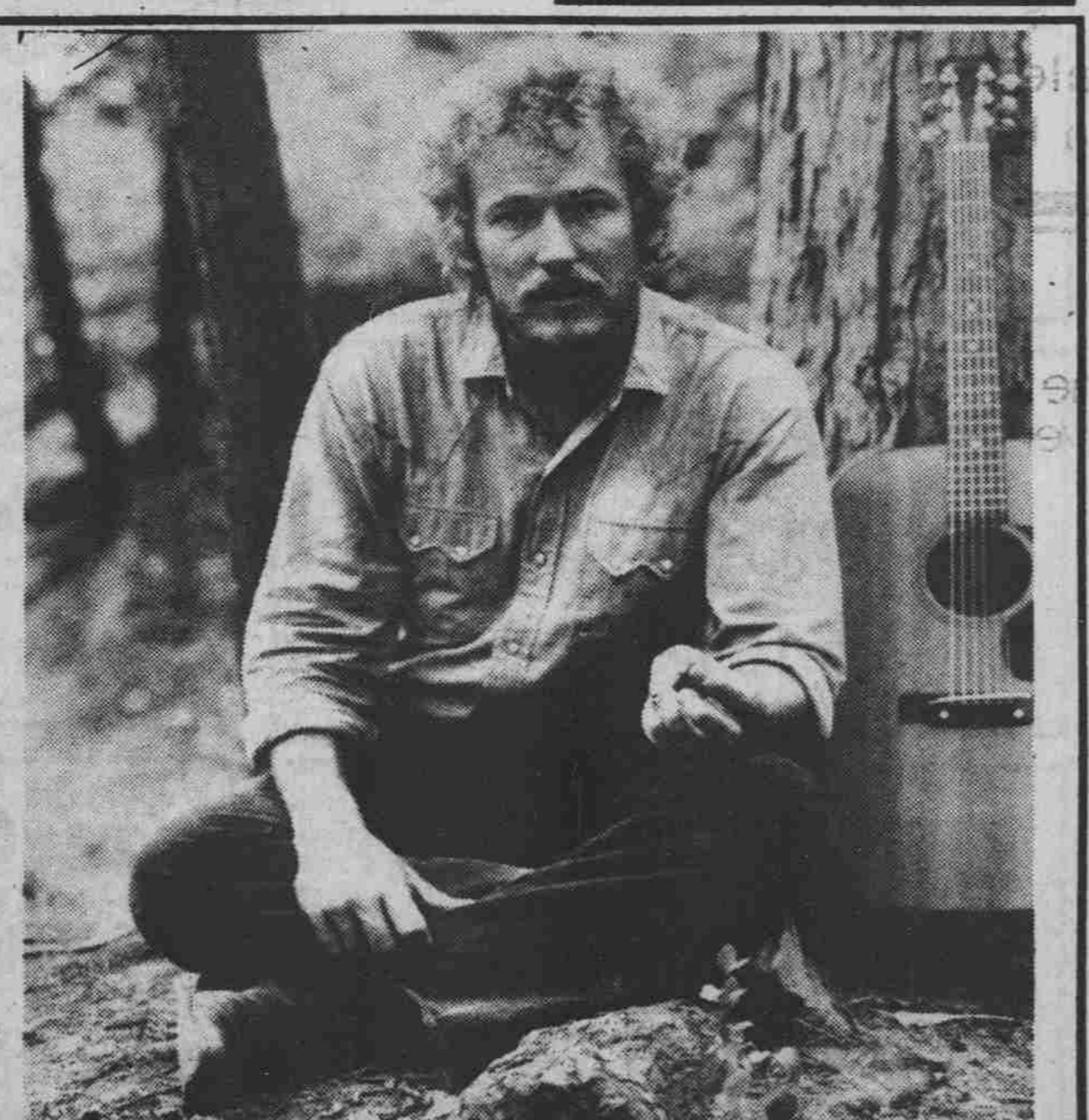
David Serrins will conduct the University Orchestra in a free concert at 8 p.m. today in Hill Hall.  
Music at 8 p.m. today in the Union Snack Bar by Poor Man's Luxury and David Sheppard. Admission is free.  
A pops concert by the North Carolina Symphony will be presented at 8 p.m. Wednesday in Memorial Hall. Free to the public.  
Gordon Lightfoot will appear in concert at 9 p.m. Thursday in Carmichael Auditorium. Tickets, available at the Union desk, are \$4 in advance and \$5 at the concert.

### Plaza 2

2nd Big Week  
2:00-4:30  
7:00-9:30

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer presents  
**"THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT"**

GINGER ROGERS  
CARY GRANT  
BOB HOPE  
BING CROSBY  
JUDY GARLAND  
JEAN MARCUS  
FRANK ROONEY  
GENE KELLY  
JAMES STEWART



Only two more days to get \$4 tickets to see Gordon Lightfoot on Thursday Night at 9 pm. Save money, buy now! Tickets at Union desk and Chapel Hill Record Bars.

NOW Varsity NOW  
1:20-3:15-5:10-7:05-9:00

"ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE FOR BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM 1975"

A Film by Luis Bunuel  
**"THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE"**

## Bogart Cagney Flynn

The Carolina Theatre and The Daily Tar Heel Proudly Present 16 Films Featuring Humphrey Bogart, James Cagney, and Errol Flynn

A different film will be shown every Tuesday & Thursday at 1:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. Purchase a series ticket for \$12.00 (\$.75 per film) or, if seats remain, buy tickets for \$1.50 per movie at the door. Most films are rarely seen on the screen and all of them are going to be out of release as of Dec. 31.

Tickets available at Student Union Desk and Carolina Theatre.  
ABC Guest admission tickets will not be accepted.

Tues., Oct. 8	Public Enemy No. 1	Tues., Nov. 5	Oklahoma Kid
Thurs., Oct. 10	San Quentin	Thurs., Nov. 7	They Died With Their Boots On
Tues., Oct. 15	Captain Blood	Tues., Nov. 12	They Drive By Night
Thurs., Oct. 17	Kid Galahad	Thurs., Nov. 14	High Sierra
Tues., Oct. 22	Marked Woman	Tues., Nov. 19	Yankee Doodle Dandy
Thurs., Oct. 24	Adventures of Robin Hood	Thurs., Nov. 21	Dark Passage
Tues., Oct. 29	Crime School	Tues., Dec. 3	Key Largo
Thurs., Oct. 31	Roaring Twenties	Thurs., Dec. 5	Treasure of Sierra Madre

### Plaza 3

ONE OF THE MOST ACCLAIMED FILMS OF 1974  
Winner Golden Globe Award 1974

Maximilian Schell's  
**THE PEDESTRIAN**  
a powerful man... and his secret

DOONESBURY

GOOD MORNING SCHOOL... HAVE YOU MET MY BOY FRIEND YET?

BOY FRIEND? WADDYA MEAN, BOY FRIEND? I'M NOT YOUR BOY FRIEND!!

BONK!

TREAT HER NICELY, KID. I'M THE JEALOUS TYPE!

WHAT?! YOU MUST BE KIDDING! TWO YEARS OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE? AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH?!

COME OFF IT, MAN! YOU THINK A FIVE YEAR EXILE IS SOME SORT OF PUNISHMENT? NO FAMILY, NO FRIENDS, ALWAYS ON THE RUN!...

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRAVEL HOME EVERY CHRISTMAS STUFFED INSIDE THE SPARE TIRE COMPARTMENT OF A VOLVO!!

I TELL YOU, WE'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH!

EASY, KID, EASY...