

# 'Streetcar', 'South Pacific'

## Area theaters open in style

UNC students have a variety of choices for quality theatre entertainment in the Durham-Chapel Hill area this weekend. Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* opens the Carolina Playmakers' Repertory Theatre fall season; the Village Dinner Theatre is presenting Rogers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, and the Pocket Theatre in Durham is bringing *Jesse and the Bandit Queen* back for two last shows, by popular demand.

The Pulitzer Prize winning *Streetcar* will run from Sept. 15 through Oct. 2, with performances at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, and at 2 p.m. Sundays.

This production of the sultry American classic is directed by Bill Ludel, a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and director for the Playmakers version of *History of the American Film* last spring.

The show features five Equity (professional actors' union) performers who bring with them an impressive list of credits (one comes direct from the Broadway run of *Annie Christie* — another from the award winning movie *Judge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys*). The cast is rounded out with the UNC Drama School graduate students.

Good seats are still available for all performances and special student subscriptions and "late rush" tickets are

being offered. Prices for various types of tickets may be obtained by calling the box office at 933-1121.

*A Streetcar Named Desire* will be followed by Peter Shaffer's Tony Award winning play, *Equus*, Oct. 13-30.

Though Autumn's chill may have been nipping at you the past few mornings, you do have one last chance to luxuriate in a luscious summer scene. For just about the duration of Carolina Indian Summer (five more weeks) the soft breezes of *South Pacific* will waft across the Village Dinner Theatre come evenings.

*South Pacific* is based on James Michener's Pulitzer Prize winning *Tales of the South Pacific*. The classically romantic Rogers and Hammerstein musical is set on an isolated South Sea island and boasts a cast of more than 20 professional actors, singers and dancers who have worked themselves into a 1940's frame of mind.

You've probably seen the original palm-sprinkled album cover showing Mary Martin (as the spunky, all-American "Ensign Nellie Forbush") making eyes at Enzo Pinza (as the mysterious, very European "Emile De Beque"). Or perhaps you recall blonde Mitzi Gaynor's indescribable "Honey Bun" number from the film version of the Broadway hit. At any rate, even if you are the sort who thinks

"Some Enchanted Evening" is Saturday night at the corner bar — you're still likely to discover something in this show that will appeal to either your sensual nature or your sense of nostalgia (for summer breezes and the 40's).

*South Pacific* opened Tuesday and continues every night but Mondays at the Village Dinner Theatre near the RDU airport. Cost for dinner, set ups and show is \$12 per person Sunday through Thursday and \$14 Friday and Saturday. Reservations are necessary. (1-596-8343).

Pocket Theatre of Durham is pleased to announce the return engagement for two performances only of *Jesse and the Bandit Queen*. Due to popular response to the play in the Triangle area Pocket Theatre will bring the play back for two performances on Friday Sept. 16 and Saturday Sept. 17.

In David Freeman's two act play, *Jesse James and Belle Star*... "mated by history... riding the wild pampas together, the burning dust of the desert in their lungs" attempt to set the record straight as to "who they really was and what they really done." The play is concerned with Jesse and Belle as they struggle to find their own identities and gain control over their lives. Most of the biographical information is true. The main fictional element is their relationship. The play opens just before Jesse and Belle are



Stanley Kowalski (Michael Medeiros) and his wife Stella (Elaine Bromka) in a scene from *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

killed, and we see them act out their lives from a final point of perspective in the instant between their awareness of danger and their moment of death.

*Jesse and the Bandit Queen* was originally presented as a staged reading at the 1975 National Playwrights Conference of the Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theatre Center. It was given a full production by the New York Shakespeare Festival at the Public Theatre and was selected as one of the Ten Best Plays of the 1975-76 Season.

The Pocket Theatre is located at 804 Fayetteville St. in Durham. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. and tickets may be purchased for two dollars either at the door or at the Regulator Bookshop.

## The pink is gone, the bricks are back at Spanky's

By BILL WATERFIELD  
DTH Contributor

When Spanky's Restaurant and bar opened early this month at the corner of Franklin and Columbia streets, Chapel Hill gained a very desirable and much-needed eating establishment.

Spanky's, named after Spanky of Our

Gang, combines a fine atmosphere with a unique menu. The restaurant exhibits an attractive, brick exterior and a tastefully restrained interior of varnished wood, brass trim and glass chandeliers — a sharp contrast from the pink decor of Mayberry Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop, the previous occupants of 101 E. Franklin Street.



The Mayberry Ice Cream and Sandwich Shop melted away but Spanky's, a new restaurant and bar, provides a complete dinner or quick lunch. Spanky's is owned by Harrison Ewell, who also owns Harrison's on Franklin Street.

The atmosphere at Spanky's is not crowded or murky and allows diners to be comfortable and relaxed. However, the seating area is not large, and chances are you will have to wait unless you eat dinner before 5 p.m. or after 8 p.m. Lunch, according to manager Dean Veros, has been very busy.

Once seated, patrons can view passersby through the expansive front windows or dine at the partially secluded tables toward the back.

Spanky's is owned by Harrison Ewell, who also owns Harrison's on Franklin Street. But there is a distinct difference in the purpose of each establishment. Spanky's concentrates on a more ambitious and diverse bill of fare. Where else can you get an artichoke, for

example, or a seafood crepe? Prices are aimed at students looking for a complete dinner or a quick lunch.

"We've kept the sandwiches under two dollars to keep them within students' range," Veros said. Sandwiches are available only at lunch.

The London Broil dinner and the chicken, vegetable or seafood crepes are among the more popular items. Salads range from the house green salad to a large, seafood salad containing shrimp, scallops, and crabmeat. For dessert, Spanky's offers fresh strawberry crepes, chocolate pie and pecan pie.

Spanky's serves food until 9 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays and until 10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Spanky's is closed on Sundays.



"Oh, don't be mad! Everyone who's anyone will be there!"

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