

Theater News and Views

'Butterflies' Set To Go on Tours

By JACK GAVER
UPI Drama Editor

NEW YORK (UPI)—The Broadway success of Leonard Gershe's humorously romantic play, "Butterflies Are Free," has resulted in plans for two duplications.

May 21 Tour
A national company will begin a tour May 21 at the Huntington Hartford Theater in Los Angeles. A second touring company is scheduled to open Sept. 7 in New Haven, Conn. This means that the play will be available in triplicate before the first anniversary of the Broadway production, Oct. 21. All of which spells prime Success.

This adds to the stature of young Arthur Whitelaw as a producer. He first came to attention seven years ago as the sponsor of an off-Broadway revival of "Best Foot Forward," which gave the now-popular Liza Minnelli her first opportunity to be someone besides the daughter of Judy Garland.

Whitelaw is co-producer of "Butterflies Are Free." He is co-producer of off-Broadway's phenomenal success, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," which has had numerous duplications while the original production goes on and on at Theater 80 St. Marks, where it began its fourth year March 7.

Based on Saga Whitelaw also is co-producer of the new Broadway musical, "Minnie's Boys," based on the show business saga of the Marx Brothers.

Mention of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" is a reminder that the only original cast member still in the New York production — by now there must be dozens of "Charlie Brown" alumni due to the many duplications at home and abroad — is Karen Johnson, who plays the outspoken, all-knowing, anti-Snoopy Lucy. She is the daughter of U.S. Rep. Albert W. Johnson of Pennsylvania.

The petite Miss Johnson vows that she keeps her trim figure by jumping rope in Central Park while balancing a book on her head. A book considerably heavier than the frequent volumes of collections of Charles Schulz' comic strips about Charlie Brown and his "Peanuts" playmates.

The Rope Bit
Actually, that can't be too much of a feat. Now, if she would do the rope bit while balancing beagle Snoopy on her head, we'd really have something. But, of course, Snoopy would never stand for that.

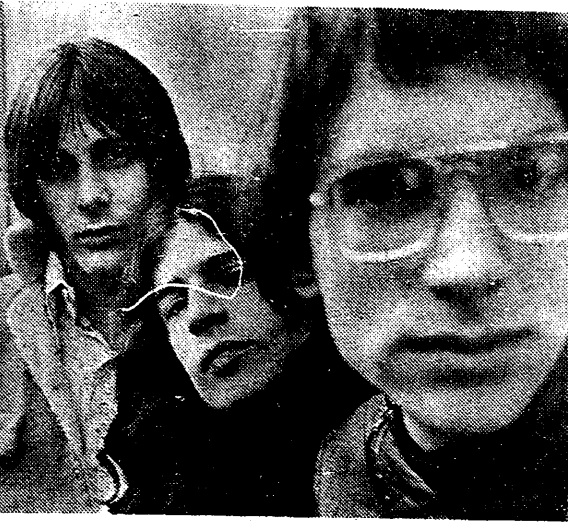
Incidentally, one of Whitelaw's actors in "Minnie's Boys" is Roland Winters, a very fine veteran who was one of several stars who

Regional Ballet To Perform in Manchester, Conn.

MANCHESTER, Conn. — The Lutz Junior Museum of Manchester, Connecticut will be the sponsors of two ballets being presented by The Connecticut Valley Regional Ballet Company, under the artistic-direction of Marguerite de Anguera, today at 1.30 p. m., in the auditorium of the East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road — at the junction of West Middle Turnpike (next to Howell Cheney Technical School), in Manchester, Connecticut.

First on the program will be "La Salle de Ballet," choreographed by Marguerite de Anguera to music of Shostakovich, Tchaikowski and Dalibes. Dancing the feature role is Miss Lynn Watt of Springfield. Others in the cast are Lee Dorman, Lauren Candido, Denise Houle, Ann Foley, Linda Copp, Beth Parry, Leslie Philippe and John Houle.

Also on the program will be "Cinderella," a ballet in three acts with music by Sergei Prokofiev choreographed by Jeanette Laurent of Ballet Etudes Repertory Company in Norwalk, Connecticut. This production has been under the special direction of Russel kratto, also of B.E.R.C., with the set constructed and painted by Robin Lewis and Verne Cole.



Mandrake Memorial

The Mandrake Memorial, a rock trio, will be presented at 8.30 Thursday in Duggan Junior High School by Poppy Records and WAIC, a low-power, limited-radius FM radio station with studios on the campus of American International College. Also on the program will be Townes Van Zandt, a poet-folksinger from Texas.

Who Says Filming Is Easy?

HOLLYWOOD — Romy Schneider recently led a rough life, cinematically speaking.

Gets Drunk
For her role in "My Lover, My Son" she had to get drunk at London's famous night club, Annabel's, sit through a car crash and find a corpse in a swimming pool. This did not entail any physical hardship, but that was yet to come.

In a scene she is thrown down a stairs by Dennis Waterman, playing her son. Miss Schneider plays Dennis' unnaturally possessive mother, and when the boy finally breaks free of her clutches, he does so in a melodramatic way.

"It was a demanding role," says Romy, "and before the picture was over I was able to display the bruises to prove it." Perfectionist director John Newland had the actress bounce down the stairs until it looked absolutely right — on-camera. That required 15 bounces!

Not the End
And it was not the end of Romy's endurance problems.

In another scene, she taunts her husband, played by Donald Houston, into hitting her. A terrific fight follows in which the two stars hurled themselves at each other with a savage fury. This episode required no less than seven "takes."

The film was shot in bizarre colors. Says Romy: "As far as I was concerned, it was shot black and blue!"

Movie Timetable

Arcade — Young Billy Young, 1.25, 4.30, 7.40; What Do You Say to a Naked Lady? 2.30, 5.05, 9.20.
Biju — Fuego, 1, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30; My Body Hungers, 2.30, 5.10, 8.
Bing — Beauty and the Beast, 1.30; Dog of Flanders, 2.30; Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice, 1.30, 7, 9.
Cinema 1 — Paint Your Wagon, 2.15, 8.15.
Cinema 2 — Gaily, Gaily, 1.30, 3.35, 5.55, 7.54, 9.55.
Cinema 3 — Adventurers, 1, 4, 7, 10.
Cinema X — Butch Cassidy, 6, 8, 10.
Eastfield Mall — King of the Grizzlies, 1.30, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30.
Elfield Cinema — Cartoon, 2; Flintstones, 2.30; This Savage Land, 7; Treach, 8.35.
Fox — Secret of Santa Vittoria, 2, 4.30, 7, 9.30.
Jefferson — Make-Off, 6, 8.35; Pleasure Machines, 7, 9.35.
Palace — tick, tick, tick, 2, 3.50, 5.50, 7.50, 10.
Paperback — John and Mary, 7, 9.
Paramount — Torzan and the Great River, 1.05, 4.05; Seven Years Against the World, 2.30, 5.30; Diary of a Mad Man, 4.15, 9.15.
Paris — They Shoot Horses Don't They?, 7.30, 9.30.
Rivoli — Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed, 1.30, 5.20, 8.45; Great Bank Robbery, 3, 7.

DRIVE-INS

East Windsor — King of the Grizzlies, 7.30; Tronson Clowns 9.10.
Memorial — Fistful of Dollars 7; What Do You Say to a Naked Lady, 9; Guns of the Magnificent, 10.30.
Parkway — Stalking Moon, 7; Me Natalie, 9; The Arrangement, 11.
Riverdale — Secret Ceremony, 7.30; Nun at the Crossroads, 9.40.

played the title role in Hollywood's long series of "Charlie Chan" movies. In the new musical, Winters has the role of E. F. Albee, vaudeville-theater magnate who had much to do with the Marx Brothers' success.

Does "Lovely Ladies, Kind Gentlemen" ring a bell? Those were the welcoming words of Okinawan schemer Sakini in 1953's John Patrick Broadway hit, "The Teahouse of the August Moon." It is the title producer Herman Levin has chosen for the musical version of the comedy he is preparing for the next Broadway season.

Patrick has provided the libretto, Stan Freeman the music and lyrics.

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