

STAGE REVIEW

The Journalists

Back Alley Theatre
Indefinite Run

There seems to be a certain dichotomy at work in Arnold Wesker's "The Journalists," which is being given its American premiere by Allan Miller at the Back Alley Theatre in Van Nuys. In this work, Wesker — who earlier explored man and his relationship to work in "The Kitchen" — delves into the newspaper business for an expose of what he presents as the pettiness, dissatisfaction and jealousy of the people who put out a Sunday paper. It's an extremely biased view, however, and the playwright himself is guilty of "Lilliputianism," a term he applies to these journalists who are "always trying to bring down giants."

Wesker did his research for the play by observing the people at a London paper, but it has never had a major London production because the characters reportedly resemble actual people and producers have been afraid of legal problems.

The setting has been changed to the United States for this production, but Wesker's observations are universal — if one-sided and possibly self-serving — and it works well under Laura Zucker's effectively orchestrated direction.

The play is essentially an overview of the workings of a newsroom and the decisions that go into the makeup of the paper, but Wesker has provided a slight plot by focusing on a columnist who is out to get a popular politician she dislikes. There's also the threat of a union strike.

It's a sprawling work, but Zucker has managed to give it shape and interest, which is carried through in the performances of the 30-member cast. Lesley Woods is quite good as the bitchy, ambitious columnist and Miller impresses with his portrayal of the editor. The other characters — none of whom seem happy with their profession — are given impressive portrayals by the large company.

If for nothing else, Zucker should be credited for keeping the pace up and the people from stumbling all over one another on the small stage. Jim Tompkins' set design, which places desks and working areas throughout the theatre, and Skip Rapoport's lighting, which effects focus, add to the overall realistic atmosphere and attitude.

— Ron Pennington

Encore Theatre
closes its doors

The Encore Theatre, one of the first movie houses in Hollywood to show old, classic films, has closed its doors on Melrose Avenue.

A spokesperson said the theatre might move to another location, but

Special Olympics
scheduled with
stars participating

More than 50 motion picture, television and sports personalities will be on hand for the opening ceremonies and competition of the annual California Special Olympics June 22-24 at UCLA and in Santa Monica.

Approximately 2,500 mentally retarded children and adults will compete in a program of 13 athletic events created and sponsored on a national basis by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation.

Participating celebrities include Michael Cole, Rosey Grier, Bruce Jenner, Arte Johnson, Jack Klugman, Harvey Korman, Janet Leigh and Jack Lemmon.

Admission to all events, including the opening ceremonies, is free.

Golden West plans
to reorganize radio

Golden West Broadcasters in planning a major reorganization of its radio division, announced Richard P. Kale, vp. Golden West Broadcasters is 51.1% owned by Gene Autry and 49.9% by the Signal Companies.

As part of a series of moves to strengthen the division, the company will expand Major Market Radio Inc., the largest nonnetwork radio sports sales company in the half-billion dollar national radio sales industry.

'Moonraker' gala
set for June 28

The gala American premiere of "Moonraker," 11th of the James Bond adventures, will be held at the Rivoli Theatre, New York, on June 28, for the benefit of the Boys' Club of New York.

The regular engagement begins on June 29 at 900-plus theatres across the United States and Canada. In the New York area it will be shown in 29 theatres.

Wayne segments

Creative Radio Shows of Burbank announced the availability of their special radio tribute, "John Wayne, the All-American Hero."

The tribute is in the form of 24 2½-minute self-contained segments especially designed for radio. The segments feature interviews with Wayne, rare performances from records, and Wayne in his classic portrayals.

'Nightwing' opens

"Nightwing," a suspense thriller, will open June 29 at the Paramount Theatre, Hollywood, and the Crest, West Los Angeles. Plus selected the-

•HANK GRANT•
RAMBLING REPORTER

BLOOMING OF A NEW MUTUAL ADMIRATION society on the "Being There" pic will see exec producer Andy Bromsbery and director Hal Ashby partnering a new indie filmery to be formally announced soon. . . . Jane Powell & hubby David Parlour are trying it apartsville, but amicably, I'm told. . . . Sy Weintraub's daughter Lori's engaged to marry publisher Herb Stewart in August. . . . And Sy & Barbara Walters are still steady as they go. . . . Ditto: Jan Beckerman (Sidney's daughter) & singer-guitarist Kenny Edwards. . . . New Two You: thesp Judith Penrod & director Richard Michaels. . . . My New York spy Freyda Muggers reports that Liza Minnelli turned down 300G plus expenses from a wealthy Arab (pardon the redundancy) merely to sing a few ditties at his private party in Geneva. . . . Which makes rather piddling an inflation note from Libya, where purchase price of a bride has escalated from \$3,500 to more than \$13,000 within the past few years. . . . Candy Clark, split from short-time hubby Marjoe Gortner, also made a biz split this week by switching to the Wm. Morris office for representation in all fields. Candy incidentally, is said to be even more outstanding in the "More American Graffiti" sequel than she was in the original movie. . . . Smell of Success: One of our top film heroes just shelled out a bundle for his British bride-to-be's nos bob in a posh London clinic. . . . You can amaze your friends by telling 'er that, according to MGM records, Greta Garbo was the first Hollywood movie star to wear artificial eyelashes. I knew that, of course. Everytime she entered a scene, her eyes swept the room — but literally!

GENE HACKMAN'S BEING NAGGED to turn nasty by producer writer Leonora Thuna, as the hired hitman in her \$6 million suspense pic "Can You Please Kill My Husband?" Leonora's also after Diane Keaton to make the request. . . . Mick Jagger's mighty pleased that Paul Mazursky's se his sweetie, Jeri Hall, to make her movie debut in his "Willie and Phil" pic. . . . Would you believe that cra-a-zy Rip Taylor's being seriously considered to take over the title "Dracula" role on B'way when Raoul Julia leaves the cast this summer? . . . FILMLORE QUIZ: Grace Kelly, now Princess Grace of Monaco, made her Hollywood film debut in what movie? (answer below). . . . HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Maureen Stapleton, William Self, Mariette Hartley, Don Megowan, Byron Palmer, Vana Heflin, Cathy Crosby, Bernie Kopel, Annalisa Chally, Conrad Hall, Irving Fein, Mary McCarty, Randy Jame Sheila Beckerman, Larry Spellman and Meredith Baxter. . . . A swarm of celebs, including Dom De Luise, Faye Dunaway, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Muhammad Ali, are expected to be on hand for the opening next Wednesday of the Merlin McFly magic-themed nitery in Santa Monica. And if the name sounds familiar, the owners also operate the Maggie McFly in Santa Barbara, the Sly McFly in Monterey and the Maxwell McFly in Carmel. Next, the Zipper McFly? . . . Though "Moonraker" looms to be his best James Bond yet, Roger Moore figures four agent 007 roles are enough and may not tally the fifth. Sean Connery would understand. . . . FILMLORE ANSWER: At the tender age of 22, Grace Kelly made her Hollywood movie debut in the otherwise forgettable "14 Hours" (20th-Fox, 1951).

ECHOING THE SMASH BOXOFFICE SUCCESS in its first week, 20th-Fox's "Alien" pic, the Warner Books paperback novelization of "Alien" has now gone into its third printing in as many weeks of release for a total of 1,250,000 copies — and that's just for starters! . . . Also on the Book Beat: Disney Prods. plucked movie rights to Jack Bickham's turn-of-the-century railroad novel, "Dinah, Blow Your Horn." . . . Wild and crazy Steve Martin continues to prove nuttier than a Hershey bar. With producer Carl Reine Martin will have "a world premiere" next Wednesday night at the Villay Theatre in Westwood of his completed "The Jerk" movie's — two-minute trailer! Y'all come, y'heah? . . . Carroll O'Connor's just bought a second beach pad in Trancas, this one for a mere \$1.4 million. . . . Bouncing at the Bistro: Monte & Giorgio Tozzi with Lynne Carter & Marvin Paige (Giorgio bouncing back to B'way as star of "The Most Happy Fella"). . . . Family Night at Tony Roma's Place: Millie & Sugar Ray Robinson, birthday