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THE JOURNALISTS, a play by Arnold Wesker, will receive its American premiere at The Back Alley Theatre, 15231 Burbank Bl., Van Nuys. THE JOURNALISTS is being produced by Allan Miller, producer of the highly acclaimed Los Angeles production of ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN. Director is Laura Zucker. Set design is by James Thompkins. The play will preview June 8, 9 and 10 and open the weekend of June 15, 16 and 17.

THE JOURNALISTS is a fictional, dramatic account of the workings of a present-day Sunday newspaper. About THE JOURNALISTS, Wesker says, "THE KITCHEN is not about cooking, it's about man and his relationship to work. THE JOURNALISTS is not about journalism it is about the poisonous human need to cut better men down to our size, from which need we all suffer in varying degrees. To identify and isolate this need is important because it corrupts such necessary or serious human activities as government, love, revolution or journalism."

Although the Royal Shakespeare Company had THE JOURNALISTS under option in 1972, a public performance never materialized. Wesker has filed a lawsuit against the Royal Shakespeare Company. To obtain background material for his play, Wesker got permission to study at first-hand all the departments of The Sunday Times in London. An unforeseen offshoot of this two month period of research was a long essay called Journey into Journalism, written in 1971. But repeated attempts by the author this time to gain permission from The

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Sunday Times to publish the essay led to one further significant confrontation. Certain journalists on The Sunday Times objected strongly to its appearance, and after an embattled, sometimes acrimonious correspondence which added some 10,000 words to the original slim document, Wesker felt honor-bound to withdraw his essay from publication.

About this second misadventure, Wesker has stated, "My journey into journalism was an unhappy one- an affectionate excursion which went sour...It's sad since I'd been very impressed with what I'd encountered in my eight weeks with them and thought I'd written a fair, serious and, though critical, yet affectionate piece. They didn't agree and so, since I'd obtained their cooperation for a play, I couldn't abuse it by publishing something they felt unfairly represented them."

THE JOURNALISTS was done as a reading in 1975 by The National Theatre in England and performed on the radio in France. It is due to be televised in Yugoslavia, using a TV building instead of the office of a Sunday newspaper, of which they have no equivalent. The Oxford Student Drama Society will present THE JOURNALISTS as their offering to the Edinburgh Festival in September.

For further information about this production contact Allan Miller at (213) 659-2600.