

# 'Bye Bye Birdie' Is Next

The Isle Musicals production of "Bye Bye Birdie," a musical comedy by Michael Stewart with music by Charles Strouse and Lee Adams, will open Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. at Moody Civic Center. The show will be repeated at a student matinee Thursday afternoon and a performance Thursday night.

**THE TOURING** troupe of New York performers, which presented "South Pacific" and "The Merry Widow" here, will arrive in Galveston Tuesday night for their Isle engagement under the auspices of the Galveston Convention and Tourist Bureau.

The entire production is under the direction of Phil Oesterman Jr., with musical direction by Wally Harper and choreography by Ciji Ware.

The scenery for "Birdie" has been designed by Robert Howery, with lighting by Art Bauman and costumes by Thuseda Schraub.

Leonie Norton have the leading roles in the musical comedy satirizing a rock 'n' roll singer who is the idol of the teen-age crowd.

Stephens, who will play Albert, the singer's harried manager, was previously seen as Lt. Cable in "South Pacific." He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Hiram College in Hiram, Ohio, and received a bachelor of music degree from Baldwin - Wallace College Conservatory in Berea, Ohio, as a voice major. He later won a scholarship to the Musical and Dramatic Theatre Academy of New York, and studied theatre arts under Sanford Meisner, Ilanya Holm, Lehman Engel, Evie Bulloten and Philip Burton.

His theatre experience was gained in performances with Front Street Theatre in Memphis, Tenn.; Meadowbrook Dinner Theatre in Cedar Grove, N.J.; Cape Cod Melody Hut in Hyannis, Mass.; South Shore

Music Circus in Cohasset, Mass.; Centenary College in Hackensack, N.J.; Studio III Production, Masters Institute in New York; the Plush Horse Dinner Theatre in Denver, Marl Howard Playhouse in Cascade, Colo. and the Colorado Springs Opera Association.

**HIS MUSICAL SHOW** credits include "Irma La Douce," "Gypsy," "The Boyfriend," "Fiorello," "Kiss Me Kate," "Mist Happy Fella," "Oklahoma" and "Pajama Game."

Jack Groverland, seen as Luther Billis in the troupe's production of "South Pacific," will appear as Conrad Birdie, the teen-age singing idol about to go into the Army. Groverland has appeared in television and stage productions in the East.

Jarkie Carol, who was Nellie Forbush in "South Pacific" will play Rose Grant, Albert's secretary, the role created by Chita Rivera in the Broadway production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

**LEONIE NORTON** will be seen as Kim, the young girl

from the Midwest selected as "Miss Typical Teen-ager" who appears with the crooner on the Ed Sullivan Show. Leonie will sing the leading roles in the next two Isle Musicals shows, "Oklahoma" and "My Fair Lady."

Lynne Fleck and Lenny Baker will appear as Kim's parents, while Bill Fleck and Lynna Counts are cast as the mayor and his wife.

Singing and dancing in the teen-agers chorus will be: **JUDY ROCKHILL**, Ann Deutsch, Ciji Ware, Cynthia Holl, Candy Tovar, Brenda Gardner, Marina Urban, Candy Fullwood, Susan Guthrie, Xavier Barrera, Larry Gibson, Tomny Andrisano, Jim Levell, Rick Delullo, Tony King and Chick Anderson.

Some of the songs featured in "Bye Bye Birdie" are "The Telephone Hour," "How Lovely To Be a Woman," "We Love You Conrad," "Put on a Happy Face," "One Day," "What Did I Ever See in Him," "A Lot of Livin' To Do" and "Baby, Talk to Me."

MARK STEPHENS, Jackie Carol, Jack Groverland and



ONE OF THE brightest songs in the musical, "Bye Bye Birdie" is "Put on a Happy Face," sung by Sad Girl and Albert. Conrad Birdie's manager, Candy Tovar and Mark Stephens rehearse the number from the Isle Musicals production to play here Wednesday and Thursday at Moody Center.

## Women Mastermind Houston Theatre

By WILLIAM GLOVER Associated Press Drama Writer HOUSTON (AP)—In Houston Theatre, women make the difference.

Elsewhere, from Broadway to Bucolic Byway, state enterprise is mostly male monopoly, with some damsel occasionally leading single community ventures.

**BUT HERE** in Houston, there are two long-running theatrical centers — and both tributes to female drive and determination.

One is the Alley Theatre, which began in 1947 and is now getting ready for impressive expansion with the help of a \$2.1-million Ford Foundation grant, the largest yet given by that organization to a regional drama group. Undisputed mistress of the Alley is Nina Vance.

The other is Theater Inc., 11 years old and proud of talent-training accomplishments that

it intends shall serve as a pilot operation for similar centers elsewhere. Heading the undertaking is Mrs. Johnny George.

**THE ALLEY AND** Theater, Inc., differ much in operational method, function in a spirit of warmly cordial rivalry, but are equally dedicated to providing Houston's rapidly growing population with entertainment variety and quality.

"The more events that are on, the more public interest is stimulated," says an Alley aide. "I think we do better business because of competition from others."

The Alley is a professional operation, with Equity actors. Theater, Inc., relies mainly on amateur performers and volunteer helpers.

**DURING THE ALLEY'S** span, 139 productions have been staged in the 214-seat Arena Play-

house. In 1954 switch was made to pro status after amateur origin. The frayed shoestring on which the project began has been replaced by a \$200,000 annual operating budget which covers seven productions during a 40-week season.

Although comedy-revivals of Broadway hits — has been the surest boxoffice lure over the years, Miss Vance has maintained a high degree of artistic attainment by judicious interpolation of classics "The Three Sisters," solemn drama, "Long Day's Journey Into Night" and avant-garde "Waiting for Godot."

"Some of the shows we do now, I don't think we would have risked five years ago," says John Wylie, one of the company's acting stalwarts who also directs. "I feel the cultural sophistication of the area has grown."

**THE MAIN EMPHASIS** at the

300-seat auditorium of Theater, Inc. is on musical works such as "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," "Irma la Douce" and the recent highly successful showing of "The Unsinkable Molly Brown." It's only straight drama was "Inherit the Wind."

Mrs. George's long labor of love for the enterprise started out as a one-year commitment to community service.

"**ALL I EVER** wanted to do in the theater was perform," notes the lady who has studied with such teachers as Jean-Louis Barrault, Pearl Primus and Lee Strasberg. She has staged 80 per cent of the group's productions.

She dismisses admiration of this ability with: "A director is merely a catalyst. You can't put anything into a performer that isn't there already—you only recognize and bring it out."



ALLEY THEATRE DIRECTOR Nina Vance, second from left, leads group of the Alley Theatre in Houston through first reading of a proposed production. The Alley Theatre, with a \$2.1 million Ford Foundation grant, is one of two long-running theatrical centers. The Alley, a professional operation, employs Equity actors. From left are: John Wylie, Miss Vance, Paul Owen, Joyce Randall and Bettye Fitzpatrick. (AP Wirephoto)

## GLT Sets Annual Meeting Tuesay

The annual membership meeting of the Galveston Little Theatre Inc. will be held Tuesday at 8 p. m. in the Oak Room of the Jack Tar Hotel.

**THE BOARD OF** directors

## 'Tom Jones' Called 'Mess' By Director

By BOB THOMAS AP Movie-Television Writer

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — He looked more like an itinerant basketball pro than the winner of this year's Academy Award for direction.

Tony Richardson, un-British in faded blue jeans, royal blue wind breaker and sneakers, was directing tests of Anjanette Comer as a mortuary assistant and Sir John Gielgud as a corpse for "The Loved One."

The director was working on a tiny stage of a Hollywood television studio despite the fact that the film is being released by MGM.

## Area Bands To Play In Texas City

Youth work projects of the Texas City Noon Optimist Club will benefit from proceeds of the "Mid-Summer Spectacular" show of area recording groups Aug. 3 at Robinson Municipal Stadium in Texas City.

**SHOW TIME** will be at 7 p. m., but doors will open at 6 p. m. Admission is \$1 and seats will not be reserved. A spokesman for the sponsoring Noon Optimist Club said.

Headlining the show bands will be the Raiders of Freeport, who recorded "Stuck Shift," "Motivation" and their new release, "Raisin' Cane." Appearing with the Raiders will be vocalist Bobby Kerd, singing his new record, "Girl of My Dreams" and Lonnie Roberts performing his country-western song, "Rugged But Right."

Also appearing will be the Originals with their latest recording, "Scattershot" and the Moore Twins singing their release of "Rosemary."

**JOHNNY WINTER** of Beaumont will sing his new recording, "Eternity" and La Marque will be represented by the Surfis and the Crestwoods.

Appearing from Texas City will be D and the Dominos, the Detours, the Lightners and the Jesters. The Tempests, Galveston group which has the record "Girl in Pink Clifton," also will appear on the program.

Jerry DeCre and disc jockeys from Station KHE will be emcees for the program.

"**TOM JONES**" was shot entirely on location, he said, using houses of the period of the Henry Fielding novel. In some cases sets were improvised within the houses by using screens and backdrops.

He estimated the film's cost at \$1,300,000 and hears that its predicted gross ranges between 25 and \$30 million. "Incredible," he commented.

"The Loved One," which also stars Robert Morse and Jonathan Winters, appears to be proof of that. After that he plans two American subjects: "Reflections in a Golden Eye," a Carson McCullers story to be filmed in Georgia; and James Baldwin's "Another Country," for shooting in New York City.

"**I PLAN TO MAKE** four

## Province Gets New Superior From Louisiana

Brother August Raphael, F.S.C., has been appointed new Provincial Superior of the New Orleans-Santa Fe Province of the Christian Brothers. He succeeds Brother August Conrad, F.S.C., who has been Provincial for the past nine years. The appointment is effective Aug. 15, according to an announcement from Rome.

Brother Raphael is the son of Mrs. Agnes Bodin of Franklin, La. He is the brother of the Right Rev. Monsignor George A. Bodin, V.F., and the brother of Mother Hilary, M.S.C., who also occupies the position of provincial in the Congregation of the Marianites of the Holy Cross.

In 1950 he was made director general of the De La Salle Brothers' Seminary in Lafayette—a position which he held until his appointment as Director of Rummel High School in New Orleans.

Brother Conrad will leave soon for Santa Fe, where he has been appointed Director of the St. Michael's College faculty.

## Organ-Piano Concert Set

Arnold B. Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moore, will be presented in an organ-piano concert Sunday, August 2 at 3 p. m. at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church.

A Junior at Lincoln High in La Marque, Arnold is church organist. He has just returned from a music workshop at Prairie View College where he was awarded honors in organ performance.

The Fifth Ward Baptist Church Choir of Houston, directed by Gideon L. Sanders will also be included on the program according to the Rev. E. L. Gates, pastor.

## No Visas Needed

AMMAM, Jordan (AP)—The United Arab Republic has decided to abolish entry visa formalities for all Jordanis, the U.A.R. Embassy here announced. The Cairo and Amman governments long had been at odds until recent reconciliations.

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## Witnesses Attending Austin Meet

Approximately 20 local persons, including Donald Campbell, presiding minister of the Galveston group, are volunteer delegates to the four-day "Fruitage of the Spirit" District Assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses in Austin which started Thursday.

A special report was presented to the Galveston congregation by Campbell, stating that the assembly would need persons with skills ranging from cafeteria workers and lift-holst operators to doctors and sound technicians, in order to make a smooth-running assembly.

Campbell said that one out of every six delegates will be working in some capacity at the convention themed around Auditorium. He noted that with the convention themed around "people helping people," those serving in the 22 departments will receive a wonderful experience with persons from 16 states, Canada, Mexico and other countries.

He concluded that the response from the Galveston congregation was gratifying.

## It's 26 In Italy

ROME (AP)—The number for Italy's new government is 26. It was formed 26 days after the previous government collapsed on June 26. It is Italy's 26th postwar government. It has 26 Cabinet members, matching the former government's 25.

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