

WHAT'S UP Guide to Arts & Entertainment

AUDITIONS

Palmetto Mastersingers are currently holding auditions for male singers for the 1994-1995 concert season. Contact Donald Gray at 777-2984 or 790-1774 to arrange an audition.

The Columbia City Ballet will hold auditions for full company and apprentice members. Positions are available for men and women, apprentice through soloist. The auditions will be held on Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Conservatory of Dance, 1123 Taylor St. Contact the Columbia City Ballet office at 799-7605 for more information.

Cockfest 1994 "Nothing Could Be Finer" tryouts for student organization skits will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 14 in the Russell House Golden Spur. All skits must be under five minutes and related to the Homecoming theme "Nothing Could Be Finer." For more information about Cockfest, go to the Homecoming Commission in Russell House room 209.

CONCERTS

Harry Connick Jr. at Blockbuster Pavilion Sept. 9. Tickets are \$14.75, \$24.75 and \$34.75 through Ticketmaster (704) 522-3500.

Governor's Celebration of South Carolina will be held at the South Carolina State Museum on Sept. 9 from 8 p.m. to midnight to celebrate 100 years of music in South Carolina. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

MUSEUMS / GALLERIES

McKissick Museum

"Master Silver by Paul Storr, His Contemporaries and Followers: Selections from the Collection of Elinor Bright Richardson," is a selection of over 65 silver objects by Paul Storr (1771-1844) and his contemporaries. Exhibit will be shown through Sept. 11.

South Carolina State Museum
Admission is \$3 for students. Admission is free on the first Sunday of each month. Call 737-3014 for further information about exhibits and

events at the State Museum.

THEATER

Youngstreet Theater

Lanford Wilson's "The Hot L Baltimore," will open Sept. 23 and run until Oct. 1. Tickets are \$10, \$8 for senior citizens, military and USC faculty and staff, \$6 for students. Tickets go on sale Sept. 12. For more information, call 777-2551. Curtain time is 8:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

"Last of the Red Hot Lovers," dinner theater at the Russell House, will play Sept. 28 at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and \$8, public; \$5, USC students. Tickets are available at the Carolina Program Union Russell House room 209. For more information call CPU at 777-7130.

Town Theater

"Fiddler on the Roof" will open Sept. 30 and run through Oct. 22 at Town Theater.

WORKSHOPS

Dissertation Writing Support Group led by Judy Small starts Sept. 15 at 10:00 a.m. and will meet Thursdays. For more information, call Counseling and Human Development Center at 777-5223.

MISCELLANEOUS

The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$12,000 in prizes will be awarded this year for its North American Open Poetry contest. The deadline is Sept. 30, 1994. The contest is open to everyone, and entry is free. To enter, send one original poem, any subject and any style to: The National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-1981, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines and your name should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by Sept. 30, 1994. A new contest opens Oct. 1.

ANIMANIA

Annual animation festival returns to Russell House

LUPE EYDE *Carolina Editor*

"The 24th International Tournee of Animation" is coming to the Russell House Theater this week, but don't expect to see Bugs Bunny, Tom and Jerry or Beavis and Butt-head, because this collection of animated films will take your breath away.

The Tournee of Animation features animated films from all over the world, including England, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and the United States, as well as a tribute to Will Vinton Studios. Several of the films have been nominated for Academy Awards.

Animation festivals of this type have recently enjoyed widespread success because of the way innovative animation has entered the mainstream, with shows like MTV's "Liquid Television," and prime-time animation like "The Simpsons," and "The Critic." However, the animation you will find in the Tournee is art, with styles and mediums ranging from claymation to puppets to house paint.

These films aren't about bunnies and superheroes, either. Some of them ("I Think I was an Alcoholic" and "The Man Who Yelled") are quirky looks at life, told from the artist's perspective.

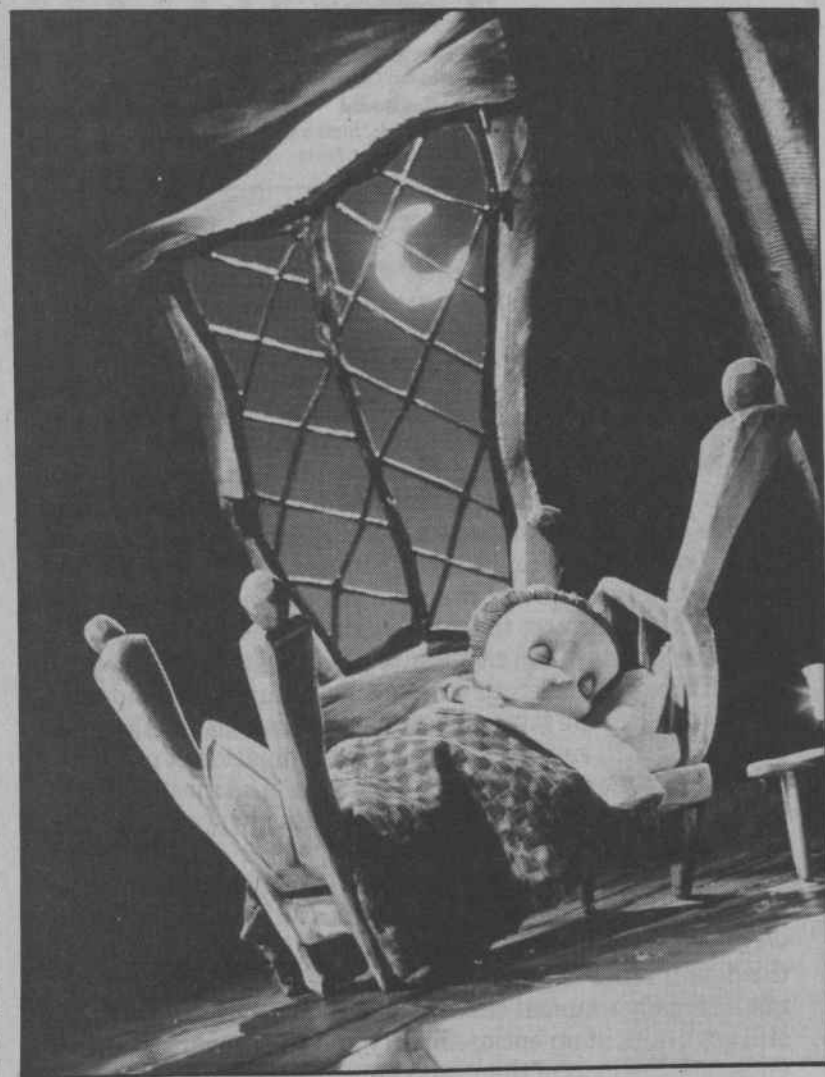
One of them, "The Billy Nayer Show," is just plain weird, but a riot. "The Ride to the Abyss," by Georges Schwigebel is a beautiful animated painting set to the music of Hector Berlioz' "La Damnation de Faust."

After "A Nightmare Before Christmas," animation seems to have found a home with horror stories and thrillers. The Tournee has its share of these, but to lump them together in the same genre would be unjust. "The Stain" by Marjuc Rimminen and Christine Roche is a psychological thriller about a psychotic family with twins who commit suicide. This particular film is creepy, but not only because of the plot. The animator's craft has much to do with the total impact of this film.

Another such film is "The Sandman," a suspenseful look at children's nightmares and how sometimes our childhood fears might be based on reality.

"Diner" is a funny look at a late-night snack joint where you might end up on the menu. The images of this film are saturated in colors which make it a visual treat that will tickle your funny bone.

By far the majority of the films in the Tournee are incredible, and I have



The stop-motion animated film "The Sandman" by Paul Berry is a childhood nightmare brought to life with puppets.

many favorites. The Czechoslovakian "Words, Words, Words" is one of the best, which is probably why it has been nominated for an Academy Award. The film is set in a cafe and follows different conversations among several characters who communicate to the audience without using words. Look for the cat that goes around drinking everyone's beer while they're not looking.

There are only a few works featured in the Tournee which I wasn't too impressed with, not because they weren't of high quality, but somehow don't create as much of an impact as the others. One was "Prehistoric Beast," which is an animated model film about two dinosaurs and reminiscent of old dinosaur movies of the '80s. I don't doubt that the film was time-consuming

to make. However, after seeing "Jurassic Park," this type of animation seems to have lost its impact.

"Get a Haircut," was the other film that didn't impress me much, because although the idea was a good one, the film, which is actually a video for the song by George Thorogood, uses too many animation styles and overloads the senses with too many images that don't seem to have to do with the song.

If you've ever liked "Liquid Television," or wanted to see it, but couldn't stay up that late, the Tournee is a much better selection of animated art. It is 90 minutes of visual and mental stimulation, of which I'm sure you won't want to miss. The Tournee is playing all this week at the Russell House.



Still from the Academy Award-nominated film by Michaela Pavlatova titled 'Words, Words, Words,' included in the Animation Tournee.

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