

On The Boards

"The Balcony"—A Shocking Experience...Worth Seeing

By **PAULA SOBOL**
Earl J. Shapiro feels that true criticism is "A work of Art, based on a work of Art," and if you are inclined to agree with this, you may take issue with the movie "The Balcony" cur-

rently showing at the Kiva Theater in Scottsdale.

Despite its setting, a brothel housed in a TV studio, a world of sexual and social fantasy, "The Balcony" is an indictment of a society whose only

absolute values are conquest and authority. What must be determined by the moviegoer, is whether this criticism is truly a work of art necessarily toned down in language and action for the movies. "The Balcony" on the stage is a shocking experience, and I wonder if the producers of the movie didn't hope to benefit by this shock value, since the most careful directorial attention is given to the perversities of the brothel, its inmates, and its clientel, and the moments of what should be biting social satire are merely waspish nibbles.

Although Shelley Winters plays the leading female role, her performance is completely overshadowed by Arnette Jens, and Ruby Dee as two of "the girls." Peter Falk gives a fine performance as the chief of police, but his acting abilities are somewhat impaired by weak supporting actors. Throughout the movie I kept thinking of George Bernard Shaw's comment that "most men are not artistic, they are only lascivious."

"The Balcony" is a difficult movie to review in that it is an art film which takes its rightful prerogative and throws aside all conventional cinema form, uses an off beat theme, and uses humor as a release from tension rather than an enjoyment evoking device. Is it worth seeing? I think it is, if for no other reason than it is a change of pace from the Doris Day-Rock Hudson type of movie in which technicolor and stereophonic sound and the right girl getting the right boy is equally as bizarre a presentation of life as the black and white fantasy of "The Balcony."

Needless to say, this is strictly adult fare.

Opening September 20th — "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" at the Phoenix Little Theater.

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Organizations

BETH EL SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood is sponsoring an October 23 theater party at the Phoenix Little Theatre, where "Come Blow Your Horn" will be presented. Dorothy Ansel and Selma Smith may be called for additional information.

BETH ISRAEL BROTHERHOOD

Vice president Irving Shaffer has inaugurated a major drive to increase brotherhood membership. A full program is planned for the coming season, including a paid-up dinner dance the evening of Oct. 16; a Monte Carlo night; Brotherhood Week activities; and Breakfast with the Rabbis.

B'NAI B'RITH 946

Sylvia Robbins' home, 1518 Circle Drive South, will be the scene of a membership coffee on Tuesday, Oct. 1, at 1 p.m. For information, call Frances Frazin, 943-2464.

B'NAI B'RITH, E. K. BAUM

Edith K. Baum chapter has set a paid-up membership brunch at The Lantern Inn, 5222 W. Indian School Rd., for Sunday, Oct. 13, at 10:30 a.m., in celebration of B'nei B'rith's 120th anniversary. Excerpts from Kismet will be presented by cast members of the Phoenix Musical Theater.

B'NAI B'RITH 960

Herman Lewkowitz Lodge's regular meeting will be Tuesday evening, Sept. 24, at the Center. There are openings for additional bowlers in the bowling league.

A board meeting is set for Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the Center.

CITY OF HOPE 245

The theme of the Sept. 24 meeting at noon at Temple Beth Israel will be "Learn with the City of Hope." Mrs. Al Burns, Mrs. Harry Ginis, and Mrs. William Yablonsky are luncheon chairmen.

HADASSAH, ELANA GROUP

A board meeting will be held the evening of Oct. 9 at the home of Mrs. Morris Miller, 3310 W. Lane Ave.

J.W.V. POST 194

A regular meeting will be held at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the Community Center. All veterans who are not members are welcome to join.

Post 194 presented \$100 as a kickoff contribution to help Phoenix high schools combat the drop-out problem. Ben Kaplan, commander, made the presentation.

PHOENIX BIKKUR CHOLIM

A benefit card party will be given at the Community Center Sunday evening, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m.

SHOLOM SISTERHOOD

"Sisterhood Circles Go Square" will be the theme of a paid-up membership Square Dance to be held Saturday evening, Oct. 19. New members are welcome.

The first meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the Temple, at 8:15 p.m. Succoth will be discussed.

Goings-On at the Center

CLASSES POSTPONED

Madeline Rose, adult director at Phoenix Jewish Community Center, reports that several classes have been postponed for the purpose of minimum registration until the first week in October. These include bridge instruction, golf, tennis, woodworking and family art.

CALLING ALL BOWLERS... WE NEED YOU!

Team competition begins in the new Center Bowling League, and Mrs. Harry Scholnick reports there is still room for a few more bowlers.

A mixed league, it affords the opportunity for husbands and wives to share an evening in the same league.

If you are interested in bowling, please call Mrs. Scholnick at WI 3-1583 or the Center office, 264-6151.

FILM CLASSICS TO START SEPTEMBER 29TH

Jay Dushoff, chairman, announces that on September 29 the Film Classic Series will present the movie, "Crisis in Lev-

ittown."

A discussion will follow on "Integration in My Neighborhood?"

These series are open to the public and a donation of \$1.00 for adults and 50c for students is requested.

JOE GOLDMAN NEW CHAIRMAN

Jack Brown, president of the Phoenix Jewish Community Center Board, announced last week that Joe Goldman has accepted the chairmanship of the new House and Grounds Committee of the Center.

Policies on rentals, organization, usage and rules governing maintenance and demeanor come under this committee.

CENTER SENIORS

On Wednesday, October 2, 1:00 p.m. at the Center, the members of the Center Senior Club will hold their first meeting of the season. Mrs. August Kraemer, president of the group, has formulated plans with the Executive Committee of projects and programs for members and guests of the club.

Dr. Ted Barkin will be guest speaker at the initial meeting, and Muriel Polett will present some Yiddish and American songs.

GREETINGS

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