

# INFORMER

## THEATRE

**EVERYMAN** 709 4776  
Until Jan 24. HOOLEY'S HOPE STREET WAKE. Not so much a show, more a celebration! Songs, stunts, panto, fire, escapology, madness, prayers, carols, trials of strength, bingo, games, dancing, booze and food... Tues-Sat, 7.30.

From Jan 26. EVERYMAN ON THE ROAD. Everyman is on tour throughout 1976 while the building in Hope Street is renovated. Ring the theatre for details of the tour.

**PLAYHOUSE** 709 8363  
Until Jan 24. Dilys Watling in CABARET, the international hit musical. With Robert Swann and Leslie Lawton. Mon-Fri, 7.30; Sat 8 p.m.

Jan 26-Feb 14. Alfred Marks in THE INSPECTOR CALLS. J.B. Priestley's great mystery play.

**PLAYHOUSE UPSTAIRS**  
From Jan 27. ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE. Joe Orton's blackest comedy. Tues-Sat, 7.45.

**GATEWAY** Chester 40393  
Jan 8-31. THE GHOST TRAIN. Arnold Ridley's famous comedy thriller is back again. Thurs-Sat only, 7.30.

**SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE** Southport 40011  
Jan 15-17. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. Adaptation by Nicholas Stuart Gray. We all know the 'Beast' is transformed back to a 'Handsome Prince' through the love of a Beautiful Girl, but how he got to that state in the first place is another story.

Jan 26-31. THE NORTHERN DANCE THEATRE. Two separate programmes, plus two special children's matinees. Mon-Wed: Brandenburg Three/Part Exchange/Pas de Quatre/Street Games. Thurs-Sat: Tchaikovsky Suite/Peepshow/A Woman's Love/Tritsch Tratsch. Mon-Thurs 7.30; Fri-Sat 8 p.m. [For matinees see Kids' Stuff, this page]

## AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS

**NEPTUNE THEATRE** 709 7844  
Jan 2-17. Neptune Theatre Company in THE SNOW QUEEN by Hans Christian Andersen.

Jan 20-22. The Masque Players in ANTIGONE by Jean Anouilh. 7.30.

Jan 26-31. Crosby Gilbert and Sullivan Amateur Operatic Society in THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD. 7.30.

Jan 10-17. Carlton Players in THE HAPPY MARRIAGE by John Clements. Little Theatre, Grange Road West, Birkenhead. 7.30.

Jan 16 and 17. The Riverside Players in THE WIZARD OF OZ. Heswall Hall, Telegraph Road. Fri 7.30; Sat 11 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 7.15 p.m.

Jan 28-30. Liverpool University Hispanic Department in EL CABALLERO DE OLMEDO (in Spanish). One of the most famous Golden Age dramas by Lope de Vega. University Theatre, Eleanor Rathbone Building, Myrtle Street. Wed and Thurs 2 p.m.; Fri 7.30.

CHEKHOV and his plays. Weekend course, Burton Manor, Neston. (From Jan 30) Fee: £9.50.

JACQUI and Bridie have moved 'Coach House' folk club once more - this time to the new Maxwell Plum pub in Hanover Street.

It is the fifth move the duo have made in the last couple of years since they left the non-licensed rooms at the Domestic Mission in Mill Street. Now, of course, the Mission has been demolished in the magnificent fashion of planners to make a bigger, better and brighter Mill Street (sic).

The new venue at Maxwell Plum follows difficulties at the Cross Keys, opposite Liverpool Stadium, for folk fans in finding the venue. And according to Jacqui it was a harrowing experience for single ladies to make their way in the dark, to available bus routes.

Maxwell Plum is a wine bar cum pub and the folk club is run in a room in the cellar called Maxwell's Pub. It is a large room with a bar running the whole length of one side.

Bridie said: "The Domestic Mission days are gone for ever. We can never get back the atmosphere we had there. We are getting as near to it as possible at Maxwell Plum, though."

Coming to J & B's club soon are Terry McCann, the Ruth Davis Band

## FILMS

### What to see . . .

Mon 5 Jan. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE ROY BEAN. (USA 1972). Director John Huston, featuring Paul Newman, Stacey Keach, Anthony Perkins. Richly enjoyable film about a real character of the old west, an outlaw who proclaims himself 'The only law west of Pecos'. MFIS.

Tues 6 Jan. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE ROY BEAN. See Monday for details.

Thurs 8 Jan. LA BONNE ANNEE. (France/Italy, 1973). Claude Lelouché the director, is well-known for his successful film 'A Man and a Woman'. (Deeside Film Soc).

Thurs 8 Jan. THE SILENCE. (Sweden, 1963). Directed by Ingmar Bergman. (Birkenhead Film Soc).

Fri 9 Jan. THE GRAPES OF WRATH. (USA, 1940). Director John Ford's classic interpretation of Steinbeck's novel. Stars Henry Fonda and Jane Darwell. "One of the most moving and beautiful films to come out of America" - Filmgoers' Companion. (MFIS)

Mon 12 Jan. BREWSTER McCLOUD. (USA, 1970) Director: Robert Altman, featuring Bud Cort, Sally Kellerman. The most neglected film of the American cinema's most original and inventive talent. In many ways a wilder comedy than M-A-S-H. (MFIS)

Tues 13 Jan. BREWSTER McCLOUD. (See Monday for details).

Thurs 15 Jan. CRIES AND WHISPERS. Brilliant direction by Ingmar Bergman. Won 1974 Oscar for best camera work. (Halton Film Soc).

Thurs 15 Jan. CAPRICIOUS SUMMER. A bitter-sweet comedy follows the arrival of the circus in a small spa town. Dir: Jiri Menzel of 'Closely Observed Trains'. Czechoslovakia, 1968. Subtitles. (Univ Cinema Club).

Fri 16 Jan. THE CONFORMIST. (Italy, 1969). Intimate investigation into the nature of public and private Fascism. (MFIS).

Mon 19 Jan. DON'T LOOK NOW. First-rate spine chiller that compares with the best of Hitchcock. (MFIS).

Tues 20 Jan. DON'T LOOK NOW. (See Monday for details).

Thurs 22 Jan. GOODBYE COLUMBUS. Dir: Larry Pearce. USA, 1969. (Birkenhead Film Soc).

Thurs 22 Jan. DAY FOR NIGHT. A recent film by Truffaut about the making of a film, with Truffaut directing himself as the film-maker. The device allows us to see how the man who made '400 Blows' goes about his work. (Deeside Film Soc.)

Thurs 22 Jan. BOUDU SAVED FROM DROWNING. A fine performance by Michael Simon cause the Sunday Times to describe this Renoir comedy as 'a joyous, outrageous, affirmative hymn to pure anarchy'. (France, 1932). Subtitles. (Univ. Cinema Club).

Fri 23 Jan. SIEGFRIED. (Germany, 1923) Dir: Fritz Lang. First part of Lang's epic film of the legendary saga of Die Niebelungen and one of the most important films in the development of the German cinema. (MFIS).

Fri 23 Jan. SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS. (USA, 1941). Preston Sturges' wittiest movie is the fourth in a series on 'Aspects of American Comedy.'

7 p.m. Ellesmere Port Library, Civic Way. Admission free.

Fri 23 Jan. WHAT'S UP DOC? (USA, 1972). Peter Bogdanovich's hilarious comedy of misunderstanding - done in the '30s style. With Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal. (Heswall Film Society).

Mon 26 Jan. DELIVERANCE (USA, 1972). Dir: John Boorman, with Jon Voight and Burt Reynolds. Four city executives spend a weekend 'returning to nature' by canoeing a dangerous Appalachian river. The threats to their survival assume terrifying proportions. "A taut, exciting thriller" - Monthly Film Bulletin. (MFIS).

Tues 27 Jan. DELIVERANCE (See Monday for details).

Thurs 29 Jan. REPULSION. Gripping horror story directed by Polanski. Stars Catherine Deneuve. (Halton Film Soc.)

Thurs 29 Jan. ASHES AND DIAMONDS. Intense and powerful film about political assassination, set in Poland at the end of the war. (Poland, 1958) Subtitles. (Univ. Cinema Club).

Fri 30 Jan. THE GOALKEEPER'S FEAR OF THE PENALTY. (W. Germany, 1972). Dir: Wim Wenders. Paranoid vision of a man entering middle age, insecure in his job, (nobody watches the goalkeeper) determined to prove his existence. (MFIS).

### where to see it

**BIRKENHEAD LIBRARY FILM SOC**  
Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at Williamson Art Gallery, Slaty Rd, Birkenhead. Membership details: Music Dept, Central Library, Borough Rd, B'head. Tel: 652 6106.

**DEESIDE FILM SOCIETY:** Alternate Thurs, 8 p.m. at MANWEB Training Hall, Carr Lane, Hoylake (5 mins from Hoylake Station). Membership details: D. Henshilwood, 130 Frankby Rd, Newton, West Kirby.

**HALTON FILM SOCIETY:** Irregularly on Thurs at 7.45 p.m. Membership details: Bill Gallan, 4 Tarvin Close, Runcorn. Runcorn 75628.

**LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY CINEMA CLUB:** Theme this term: Images of Women. Thursdays 8 p.m. in University Lecture Rooms Building, Crown St (off Brownlow Hill). Membership NOT restricted to people at university. Details: Dr Ann Thompson, English Dept, The University, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX. Tel: 709 6022.

**MERSEYSIDE FILM INSTITUTE SOCIETY:** Mon, Tues, Fri and sometimes Sat., in Merseyside Film Theatre, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool. Showings at 6 p.m. and 8.15 unless otherwise stated. Membership details: Hon. Sec., MFIS, 45 Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool, L1 3BX.

**NEW SHAKESPEARE FILM SOCIETY:** Weds at 7 p.m. at Royal Institution, Colquitt Street, Liverpool. Films are part of a course run by University Institute of Extension Studies and are followed by discussion. Tickets for individual sessions: 40p (students 20p). Details: Royal Institution, Colquitt Street. Tel: 709 1579.

across magnificently and his sense of timing and humour keeps the audience on the brink of laughter.

Therapy's third album is to be released shortly but will not be on general release - it will be available only from the duo. And their first album "Almanack" (CBS) is to be re-recorded and will be on sale very soon.

If you've missed Therapy up to now, take a tip and get along and see them. Failing that buy an album. You certainly won't be disappointed.

-Roy Webster

### FOLK EVENTS

**FOLK SONG** in town and country. Weekend course at Burton Manor, Neston with Harry Boardman and Pat Shaw. From Jan 16. Fee: £10.

**THE FIVE PENNY PIECE.** Concert, Theatre Royal, St Helens. Jan 17, 7.30.

**LIVERPOOL POLYTECHNIC:** Every Thursday at 8.15 in the Commerce Bar (behind faculty building, Tithebarn Street). Jan 15: Garry and Vera; Jan 22: Brian Dewhurst; Jan 29: Stan Jardine.

**REGULAR** folk sessions are expected to start at the university union shortly. They will probably be on Tuesday nights in the Lounge Hall. No membership needed, admission charges according to singers booked. Provisional bookings include Oidham Tinkers, Pigsty Hill, Therapy and Dave Evans.

## JAZZ

SINCE the days in the 1950s when the Cavern rang to the sound of banjos and jazz bands rather than guitars and groups, there has been a tendency to think that local jazz was totally overwhelmed by the beat groups of the 1960s and has never recovered.

In fact, the local jazz scene on Merseyside is alive and well, a lot healthier than would appear from coverage given to it in the Liverpool Echo and the local radio stations, who seem to consistently ignore the subject.

Most of it is to be found in pubs rather than clubs, which has the advantage that entrance fees are rarely charged, although more purist jazz fans would argue that it also leads to the music becoming adulterated so that it will appeal to a wider audience.

Undoubtedly the most successful of local venues is the 'Coffee House' pub in Wavertree (opposite the Abbey Cinerama) where the Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra play every Tuesday night. For six years over 200 people of all ages have crammed into the back room every week to create a remarkable atmosphere.

The 'Blue Mags' with their eight piece line up which includes tuba and saxophone, set out to play the music of King Oliver's "Dixie Syncopaters" but widen their repertoire to include most of the jazz styles of the 1920s. They are an extrovert lot, whose enjoyment of the music is invariably conveyed to the audience, and this has helped them to be a success in such widely disparate locations as Garston British Legion and the Veterinary Surgeons' Ball.

The oldest, most experienced and in many ways most technically capable of local bands are the Merseyside who play at the Sportsman pub in St John's Precinct every Wednesday. They have been steaming away since 1949, and with remarkably few personnel changes, they still have the same exciting two trumpet lead.

In recent months they have backed visiting musicians 'Wild Bill Davison' and alto player Bruce Turner. The success of these occasions, and that

SPECIAL JAZZ DATE: Fri Jan 23. Humphrey Littleton Band, British Legion, Formby. 8.30 (Bar till 11.30).

of the Alex Welsh Band at the Coffee House recently, would suggest that it is a pity that the bigger promoters do not bring the 'big name' artists to Liverpool more often.

The Wirral is by no means devoid of jazz either. On Wednesdays the Panama Jazz Band play at the Black Horse Hotel in West Kirby, and on Thursdays at the Victoria Hotel in New Brighton. Both are sedate venues than the 'Coffee House' or the 'Sportsman' but the Panama are well worth hearing, especially for the Bix Beiderbecke-inspired cornet of John Critchley, and the exciting playing of bass player Robin Tankard and drummer Bill Williams.

Other places where jazz can be heard include the Heath Hotel, Greenhill Road, Allerton on Tuesdays where the Savoy Jazz men play excellent New Orleans jazz, and there are two Sunday lunchtime sessions at the Grand Hotel, New Brighton and the Victoria Hotel, New Brighton which feature various groups of the New Orleans style.

Modern jazz in Liverpool seems to be based almost entirely on the Banyan Tree in the Adelphi Hotel, but they do regularly bring musicians from far and wide to play there and these sessions are usually well advertised in the Echo, for which we are very grateful.

There follows a check list of where to find jazz in Liverpool; we hope to include more groups and venues in next month's issue. -Silas Cluke

**TUESDAY**  
BLUE MAGNOLIA JAZZ ORCHESTRA  
The Coffee House, Wavertree.  
THE SAVOY JAZZMEN, The Heath Hotel, Greenhill Road.

**WEDNESDAY**  
MERSEYSIDE JAZZ BAND, Sportsman, St John's Precinct.  
PANAMA JAZZ BAND, Black Horse Hotel, West Kirby.

**THURSDAY**  
PANAMA JAZZ BAND, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton.  
MODERN JAZZ at the Banyan Tree, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool.

**SUNDAY**  
(LUNCHTIME): GRAND HOTEL and VICTORIA HOTEL, New Brighton.  
(EVENING): NEW ORLEANS EXPRESS at the Albion in Chester.



Jon Voight captured by mountain men in Deliverance [Films: Jan 26 & 27]

## KIDS' STUFF

Jan 7. CHILDREN'S CONCERT. 10 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. Liverpool Brass Ensemble, Bluecoat Society of Arts, Bluecoat Hall. 20p (adults 30p).

**PLAYHOUSE** 709 8363  
Until Jan 17. KIDNAPPED AT CHRISTMAS. Original play for children by Willis Hall. Matinees only at 2.30.

**GATEWAY** Chester 40393  
Until Jan 31. THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT WENT TO SEE... by David Wood and Sheila Ruskin. Tues-Sat: 2.30; Fri and Sat: 7 p.m. From Tues Jan 6: Tues to Sat at 2.30 only.

**SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE**  
LORD STREET, SOUTHPORT  
Southport 40011

Jan 26-31. NORTHERN DANCE THEATRE. Special children's shows: Wed at 2.30: Overture/Peepshow/Tchaikovsky Suite/Tritsch Tratsch/Just for Fun. Sat at 2.30: Overture/Peepshow/Tchaikovsky Suite/Pas de Quatre/Just for Fun.

**THEATRE ROYAL** St Helens 28467  
Jan 5-10. CINDERELLA. Amateur pantomime presented by Pilkington Musical Section. Evenings 7.15; Sat matinee 2.15.

Jan 19-31. JACK AND THE BEANSTALK. Professional panto by Duggie Chapman Productions. Mon-Sat, 7.15. Matinees Jan 21, 22, 24, 29, 31 at 2.15.

**NEPTUNE** 709 7844  
Jan 2-17. THE SNOW QUEEN. Amateur production by Neptune Theatre Company. Details from theatre.

Jan 3-10. JACK AND THE BEANSTALK. Eighth annual joint production by Rainhill Operatic and Garrick Societies (amateur). Rainhill Village Hall. Mon-Sat at 7.15; Matinees Jan 3 and 10 at 2.15.

Jan 1-17. CINDERELLA. Southport Dramatic Club (amateur). Little Theatre, Houghton Street, Southport.