

INFORMER

THEATRE

PLAYHOUSE 709 8363
Until April 17. World premiere of **Down The Dock Road** by Alan Bleasdale. Lively account of a day in the life of a Liverpool docker by the creator of 'Scully'. Large cast includes club comedian Mickey Finn in his first straight acting role.

April 21—May 8. **Move Over, Mrs Markham** by Ray Cooney and John Chapman. Light-hearted romp which ran for two years in London.

PLAYHOUSE UPSTAIRS 709 8363
Until April 17. Brian Miller and Elisabeth Slade in **Mooney and his Caravans** by Peter Terson. Life on a modern camping site by the author of Zigger-Zagger.

GATEWAY Chester 40393
April 7—24. **Count Dracula**. Ted Tiller's adaptation of the classic story by Brian Stoker. Unlimited thrills! No performance Good Friday.

April 28—May 15. **Forget-Me-Not Lane** by Peter Nichols, author of A Day in the Death of Joe Egg and The National Health.

AMATEUR PRODUCTIONS

NEPTUNE 709 7844
April 2 and 3. East Wavertree Players in **Bellamy** by Anthony Armstrong and Arnold Ridley. 7.30.

April 6 and 7. **Festival of one act plays**. Liverpool Federation of Townswomen's Guilds.

April 9 and 10. New Electron Players in **A Letter from the General** by Maurice McLoughlin. 7.30.

April 22—24. G.H. Lee Dramatic Society in **Cat among the Pigeons** by Duncan Greenwood. 7.30.

April 27—May 1. Green Room Players in **Big Bad Mouse** by Philip King and Falkland Cary. 7.30.

THEATRE ROYAL St Helens 28467
April 29—May 1. **The Best of 50 Years**. Presented by the Unnamed Players. Miscellany from the past 50 years of productions by this well-known St Helens amateur society. 7.30.

OTHER AMATEURS

April 5—10. Birkenhead Operatic Society Trust in **The Desert Song** by Sigmund Romberg. 7.00. Empire Theatre, Lime St., Liverpool. Matinee: Sat at 2.30.

April 20—24. Ormskirk Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society in **Fiddler on the Roof**. Wigan Road Secondary Modern School. 7.30.

April 26 and 27. The Mute Pantomime Theatre in **A Clown's Sodom**. Premiere of a full length Harlequinade by Britain's most articulate mime company. Eleanor Rathbone Theatre, Myrtle Street, Liverpool. 7.30.

FILMS

What to see . . .

Mon. 12 April. **They Might be Giants**. (USA, 1971). Featuring George C Scott, Joanne Woodward. Much neglected film about a lawyer's private fantasy of being Sherlock Holmes. —MFIS.

Tues 13 April. **They Might be Giants**. See Monday for details.

Thurs 15 April. **The Haunting**. (Britain, 1963). Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, Richard Johnson. —Birkenhead.

Fri 23 April. **Paper Moon**. (USA, 1973). Ryan O'Neal and his real-life daughter as a middle-aged Bible salesman and a 9-year-old orphan in the American mid-west of the 1930s. —Heswall.

Mon 26 April. **The Apartment**. (USA, 1960). Award-winning Billy Wilder comedy with Jack Lemmon and Shirley Maclaine. —Crosby.

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.

CROSBY INTERNATIONAL FILM SOCIETY: Crosby Library. Membership £1, admission 20p. 7.30 p.m.

HESWALL FILM SOCIETY: Alexander Hall, Rocky Lane. Members guests 40p. Others 50p. 7.45 p.m.

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.



Busker's blues

YOU MAY not have seen Harry Shaw before, but you might well have heard his voice booming out from a distance.

He claims to have been the first busker to perform in Bold Street, and you can usually find him there or at the Pierhead, where he's been playing for the last five years. Other days he travels as far as Wigan or gives the occasional charity show for pensioners' clubs.

He left his home town of Cork fifteen years ago to work as a tool-maker. Now he's unemployed but thinks he'd prefer to have a regular job if he could find one, and con-

tinue to busk in his spare time.

Harry began street singing when he was desperately short of money. The first time he was arrested for busking he had no shoes on his feet. He's been arrested four times now and regards it as a hazard of the job, but would welcome an official podium where people could perform without fear of arrest.

He says he likes all kinds of music except what he calls "kidra-phonics canned Tesco music."
"They blast this music from the boutiques out onto the streets, but I'm not allowed to sing or play my instrument without the chance of landing up in court."

READING AIDS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BECOMES BIG BUSINESS, by John Benington (25p).

How and why local authorities have been modelled on financial corporations. And the consequences: "The balance of power is shifting further away from the elected members towards the officer system, and away from local politicians towards the managerial elite within the parties."

The councillor is in a contradictory position. "He is elected to represent a small geographical area. He is also a member of a party with commitments to collective interests in the wider residential and industrial community.

"But once elected he is appointed to serve on a series of committees which are organised *not around any of these political interests* but around corporation departments — education, housing, social services, for example. These departments are concerned with the provision of city-wide services, and by and large they treat the city as a *uniform whole*."

This puts the councillor at a disadvantage.

Wed 14 April. **JABBERWOCKY**. Overton Hall, Wirral Country Park, Thurston. 8 p.m. Canadian poets Alan Nowlan and Irving Layton. Poem of the Month. Music from Georgina Crosbie. Poets: Pat Sykes and Susan Williams.

WINDOWS: HALEWOOD LIBRARY
For future events contact Halewood Community Council, James McCall House Kenton Road. (486 2172).

POETRY

WHY NOT? (pub): Harrington Street, off N. John Street, Liverpool 1. Last Thurs each month (except Aug and Dec).

SOUTHPORT ARTS CENTRE. Normally last Fri each month. Phone Alistaire Patterson 709 6022 ext 3047 for details.

JAZZ

IN HIS 'Rocknotes' column, Mike Evans recently bemoaned the lack of facilities in Liverpool for dancing to rock music, and this is unfortunately also true of the jazz scene.

Surely, if ever a music was originally designed to dance to, it was jazz? As it developed during the 1920s and 1930s, from the ODJB through to the swing era, from the Mardi Gras festivals in New Orleans to the Birdland Night Club, it has always been a music for dancing as well as listening.

It is true that there are musicians from both extremes, from the purest of pure New Orleans to the esoteric Avant-Garde, who would prefer to be listened to in reverent solemnity, but the majority of jazz groups would welcome more venues where the audience could participate more actively.

In Liverpool, bands like the Blue Magnolia, Merseyside and Panama play lively, danceable jazz but very rarely in places where dancing is physically or legally possible. With 'swing' in the Hit Parade, the 'Big Band sound' back at the Grafton, and jazz on the upsurge generally, surely there is a Merseyside promoter somewhere who would be prepared to organise a 'Jazz for Dancing' night?

During the dreaded 'Trad Boom' of the late 1950s and early 1960s, there evolved a style of dancing known as the 'stomp' in which couples heaved themselves about like chained elephants, and the

growing popularity of traditional jazz has led people to start muttering that a second 'boom' is around the corner. The fact is that this is as unlikely as it would be unwanted. There is no band in the country that could get several hits in the Top Twenty, and that is the only way to achieve the kind of popularity that was earned by the Bowler Hats and Banjo brigade of fifteen years ago.

In any case, a 'boom' is so grotesquely transient that in the end it is self-defeating; for too long in the late '60s jazz was looked upon by many young people as a 'failed pop music', which is one thing it is not. In fact, there is every indication that jazz of all styles is again progressing to the status of being the respected and widely appreciated art form that it should be, a status that is mercifully immune to the whims of the 'commercial pop industry'.

WHAT'S ON...

Monday: Merseyside Big Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton. Ron Parry Trio, Late Extra Club, New Brighton.
Tuesday: Blue Magnolia Jazz Orchestra, The Coffee House (pub), Wavertree. The Savoy Jazzmen, Heath Hotel, Greenhill Road, Allerton.
Wednesday: Merseyside Jazz Band, The Sportsman, St John's Precinct. Panama Jazz Band, Black Horse, West Kirby. Mike Jackson Quintet, Gladray Club Upper Parliament Street. The 'Five and a Penny', Cheshire Yeoman, Ledsham, Wirral.
Thursday: Panama Jazz Band, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton.
Sunday: (lunchtime) New Orleans Jazz, Victoria Hotel, New Brighton. (lunchtime) New Orleans Jazz, Hawk and Buckle Inn, Denbigh. (evening) New Orleans Jazz, Albion Hotel, Chester.

EXHIBITIONS

WALKER ART GALLERY
William Brown St., Liverpool. Mon—Sat 10—5; Sun 2—5.
R.J. Barrow. Early 19th century Liverpool townscape. April 26—June 13.

LIVERPOOL ACADEMY GALLERY
65 Renshaw St., Liverpool. Tues—Fri 10—5; Sat 11.30—3.
Liverpool Academy Spring Exhibition. Latest work by members of Liverpool Academy of Arts. Until April 15. Also **Performance Art** on April 9, 28, 29, 30 (phone 709 4088 for details).

ALLERTON GALLERY
117 Allerton Rd., Liverpool 18. Mon—Fri 10.30—6; Wed and Sat 10—1.
Pictures of Liverpool and Lancashire. Work by John Baum, E Scott Jones, J H Lee, Edna Lumb, Fred Wilde. Until April 10.
Paintings and Watercolours, 1880—1920. April 15—May 8.

METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL
Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.
The Way to the Cross. Photographs by John Siney. Until April 25.

ATKINSON ART GALLERY
Lord St., Southport. Weekdays 10—5.
Model Theatres. A North-West Museum and Art Gallery Service exhibition. Until April 22.
Southport Photographic Society. Annual exhibition. Until April 19.

CROSBY LIBRARY
Crosby Rd. North. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9.30—8; Thurs 9.30—1; Sat 9.30—5.
Crosby Camera Club. Annual exhibition. April 3—10. Projection of colour slides April 3 at 3.30; April 8 at 7.15.
Horse Brasses. A North-West Museum and Art Gallery Service Exhibition. April 6—May 6.

BOOTLE ART GALLERY
Oriol Road. Mon—Fri 10.30—2.30; Sat 9—1.
Lancashire Group of Artists. 26th Touring Exhibition. April 3—May 1.

NEPTUNE THEATRE GALLERY
Hanover St., Liverpool. Mon—Fri 10.30—2.30; Sat 10—12.
Janet Smith. Oil Paintings. April 5—30.

BLUECOAT CHAMBERS
School Lane, Liverpool. 10—6.30.
The Bible Exhibition. Original editions of Bibles old and new, features on the Dead Sea Scrolls, archaeological exhibits from 2500 BC, including Biblical coins, colour slides, models, charts etc. April 6—10.

MERSEYSIDE COUNTY MUSEUMS
William Brown St., Liverpool. Mon—Sat 10—5; Sun 2—5.
ABC of Minerals. Minerals from the museum's collections and elsewhere. Until April 4.

Tantra Art. Exhibition illustrating the Tantric belief and art (from Victoria and Albert Museum). Until May 9.
British Birds by British Artists. Original bird illustrations assembled by the British Museum.
New Shippers Exhibition. From the museum's extensive collection of ship models, relics, paintings and documents. (Until January next year).

CHESTER ARTS AND RECREATION TRUST. The Centre, Market Square. Mon—Sat 9.30—5.
Model Railways. April 1—4.
The Face of Merseyside. Including work by Maurice Cockrill, Adrian Henri, Sam Walsh, Dorothy Bradford. April 10—May 8.

Video & Film

The Merseyside Visual Communications Unit can offer a wide range of facilities and services. We will hire out equipment at ridiculously non-commercial prices, teach you how to operate portable video, film or video local events, issues etc. We can't promise you a Hollywood film set but we will do our best to give you the media treatment.

MVCU: 83 Seel Street, Liverpool L1 4BB (051-709 9460).

ATTICUS BOOKSHOP

For 20th Century fiction: Camus, Sartre, Kafka, Stein, Kerouac etc. Women's rights; American Indians; Mysticism and the occult.

COFFEE SERVED ALL DAY

38 Clarence Street, Liverpool 3. (off Mt Pleasant).

Tel: 708 9834