

# Othello shocks the purists...



Paul Robeson and Mary Ure are together in the "Othello" at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre.

FOR years playgoers have had to accept a white actor blacked up for the part of "Othello." Sometimes we had dignity, sometimes diction, often poetry, but rarely heart.

Now 60-year-old Negro Paul Robeson steps on to the stage at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre to clothe the character in truth.

There is dignity in the early scenes where the simple soldier becomes articulate in telling his love for the white-skinned daughter of a Venetian nobleman, against the background of a state gearing for war.

There is diction from a man whose singing voice is legendary, and who can speak nine languages. There is poetry because this is Shakespeare understood, and there is heart in his grasp of a man once slave, now distinguished general, battling against base emotions he never thought were part of his character.

Side by side with this Othello marches the Iago of Sam Wanamaker. Once more understanding is there.

Mr. Wanamaker has grasped the basic idea that here is a man so eaten with jealous ambition he has become crooked as a corkscrew, and incapable of letting his right hand know what his left was doing.

Unfortunately he carries this through to his speaking voice. A good 60 per cent. of what he said at the first performance failed to reach the first few rows of the circle.

Caught up in the web of intrigue woven by Iago, Mary Ure, as Desdemona, might have been minted in a refrigerator.

Only the warmth of Mr. Robeson's Othello thaws her

## THEATRES

BY CHRISTINE CARTWRIGHT

at last to frantic panic when she realises that her husband is about to murder her.

Albert Finney's Cassio is a little staccato in speech and gesture. But Angela Baddeley's Emilia, and Zoe Caldwell's Bianca are both intriguing cameos.

Tony Richardson's production, cut into two halves, the first rich, hurly burly, and the second calmer, giving the plot time to breathe, is full of inventive surprises.

Fiege fights, firecrackers, carousals, red hounds, and an asthmatic Duke of Venice may shock the purists.

But this is the 100th season at the theatre. Why not celebrate with firecrackers?

## Singers

A FLOWERING of songstresses is due to burst on the Midlands this week.

Two very well known, and one at the beginning of her career.

At Birmingham Hippodrome Joan Regan makes her first appearance for over 18 months, months in which she has starred on TV, made film appearances, sung before the Queen, married, and produced a baby daughter.

Coventry Theatre welcomes the other two. They are Vanessa Lee and Mary Millar, who both have important roles in "Old Chelsea."

Apart from the fact that

this is a new production of a very old favourite, two brand new songs by Richard Tauber, discovered after his death, have been incorporated into the score.

Vanessa Lee, in only her third stage role since the death of Ivor Novello, plays Nancy Gibbs, an opera singer.

Mary Millar, a 22-year-old from Sheffield, has the singing part of Mary Fenton, a young milliner, who steps in when Nancy is unable to appear in a role specially created for her.

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ALEXANDRA THEATRE  
Evs. 7.15 (Sat. 5.25 & 8).  
Matinee Wednesday 2.30  
Derek Selberg's Repertory Company  
"SEE HOW THEY RUN"

Famous Farce by Philip King  
27th "ANY OTHER BUSINESS"  
Box Office 10-7.15 MID 1231

REPERTORY THEATRE  
Opening Tuesday, 14th  
"THE KIDDERS"

A modern American play of comedy and drama by Donald Ogden Stewart.  
Evenings 7.0. Matinees, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2.30. Usual agents.  
Box Office (MIDLAND 2471) open 10.0 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

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## REST OF THE PROGRAMMES

At the Belgrade Theatre a world premiere of "Bridge of Sighs" is the one-week attraction.

The play, a comedy by Thomas Mutchamp, takes the audience to a remote little bridge on the frontier between two European countries.

Repertory returns to the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, with a two-week production of "See How They Run."

Birmingham Repertory Theatre opens on Tuesday with "The Kidders."

At the Windsor Theatre, Bearwood, the last but one repertory production is "Sauce for the Goose."

Aston Hippodrome presents another Pauline Penny review.

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## BIRMINGHAM SUBURBAN CINEMA GUIDE

<b>KING'S NORTON</b> KIN 1079 NIGARA (A) Technicolor. Mon. Robin Hood (U); Frontier Gun (U).	<b>ODEON, SUTTON</b> SUP 274 John Gregson, THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE (A); GIRL IN THE WOODS (A); 4.0, 6.30.	<b>ODEON, WARLEY</b> BEA 1849 The Great Manhunt (U); 3.30, 7.45 The Sea Shall Not Have Them (U); Mon. The Captain's Table (A).	<b>OLTON CINEMA</b> ACO 0539 John Gregson, THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE (A); GIRL IN THE WOODS (A); 4.50, 7.57, 9.30, 6.31.	<b>LYRIC</b> PARADE AFRICAN QUEEN (U) 4.52, 7.59; CATTLE STATION (U) 3.45, 6.52 Mon. Sunlight Riders (U).	<b>MAYFAIR</b> PERRY COMMON THE NIGHT HOLDS TERROR (A); Mon. Robert Taylor, Cyd Charisse, Party Girl (U); I Accuse (U).	<b>MAYPOLE</b> King's Health May 2051 Donald O'Connor, CALL ME MADAM (U); Mon. Rally Round the Flag Boys (A) Adults.	<b>MOSELEY PICTURE HOUSE</b> ROAD TO BALI (U) Tech. Trope Zone (U); Mon. The Fantastic Disappearing Man (X) Adults.	<b>NORTHFIELD CINEMA</b> PRI 1463 CRASHOUT (A); HELLGATE (A); M. The Land Unknown (A) Circus; Beat of the Amazon (A); L.P. 7.30.	<b>OAK, Selly Oak ABC</b> SEL 0139 Charlton Heston, ARROWHEAD (U); Bowery Boys, Bowery to Bagdad (U); M. The Captain's Table (A).	<b>ODEON</b> KINGSTANDING CASANOVA'S BIG NIGHT (U) 5.10, 8.30; Comanche (U) 3.30, 6.35; Mon. Frankenstein 1970 (A) Adults.	<b>ODEON</b> PERRY BARR A Kiss Before Dying (A) 5.5, 8.5; Fish and the Spur (A) 3.25, 6.35; Mon. The Captain's Table (A).	<b>ODEON</b> SHIRELEY Gayton Passage (U) 5.25, 8.25; Killers From Space (U) 4.0, 7.0; Mon. The Captain's Table (A).
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<b>ABC REGAL, Handsworth</b> NOR 1801 James Gagney, Tribute to a Bad Man (A); Joan Rice, Women Without Men (A); Mon. The Journey (A).	<b>RIALTO, Hall Green</b> SPR 1770 The Phantom From 10,000 Leagues (A); The Hypnotist (A); Mon. Van Johnson, Subway in the Sky (A).	<b>ABC RITZ, Bordesley Green</b> VIC 1070 James Gagney, The Morning; TRIBUTE TO A BAD MAN (A); Glenn Ford, FRAMED (A).	<b>ABC ROBIN HOOD</b> - HALL GREEN Glenn Ford, The Deperados (U); Genevieve, My Darling (U); Mon. Deborah Kerr, The Journey (A).	<b>ROCK CINEMA</b> - ALUM ROCK John Wayne, The Fighting Kentuckian (A); Mon. John Gregson, The Captain's Table (A).	<b>ABC ROYALTY, Harborne</b> HAR 1819 Richard Todd, The Kentuckian (U); Ronald Shiner, Up To His Neck (U); Mon. The Journey (A).	<b>RUBERY CINEMA</b> - Rubery 193 Cinema Gaiety, The Journey 3 days; THE BIG MONEY (U); HEART OF A CHILD (U); L.P. 7.30.	<b>SHELDON CINEMA</b> - SHE 2156 John Agar, The Flesh and the Spur (A); The Hypnotist (A); Mon. The Captain's Table (A).	<b>TIVOLI</b> - COVENTRY ROAD Jane Russell, Centimenen Mary Brunettes (A); Strike Against Joe (A); Mon. Subway in the Sky (A).	<b>TRIANGLE, Gooch Street</b> CAL 1860 Rock Hudson, The Golden Blade (U); Ma and Pa Kettle at Home (U); Mon. Joe Dakota (A).	<b>ABC TUDOR, King's Heath</b> HIG 1161 Richard Todd, The Dam Busters (U); Mon. Chilton Webb, The Remarkable Mr. Penypacker (U).	<b>PRINCES, SMETWICK</b> SME 0221 Richard Todd, Rally Round the Flag Boys (A); 7.44; Scott Brady, Blood Arrow (U); 6.30.
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## Week Commencing April 12, 1959

<b>VILLA CROSS</b> - NOR 0607 Richard Egan, Tension at Table Rock (U); The High Terrace (A); Mon. The Captain's Table (A).	<b>WALDORF</b> - SPARKBROOK HORIZONS - WEST (U); Mon. The Kettles at Home (U); Mon. Rock Hudson - Captain Lightfoot (U).	<b>WARWICK</b> - ACOOKS GREEN Joel McCrea, THE FIRST TEXAN (U); The Toughest Man Alive (U); Mon. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (X).	<b>WENTLEY</b> - HAR 1490 Randolph Scott, THE GREAT MANHUNT (U); At the Stroke of Nine (A); Mon. Carry On Sergeant (U).	<b>WEST BROMWICH CINEMAS</b> IMPERIAL, West Bromwich WES 0192 Eartha Kitt, Sonny Davis Jr, ANNA LUCASTA (A); Dennis Shaw, The Great V. Robbery (U).	<b>KING'S, West Bromwich</b> - WES 0630 John Gregson, THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE (A); 5.0, 7.50; GIRL IN THE WOODS (A); 4.0, 6.40.	<b>QUEEN'S THE COLLOSSUS OF NEW YORK</b> (A); 5.20, 8.30; THE SPACE CHILDREN (A); 4.0, 6.40.	<b>STONE CROSS - HOUDINI</b> STO 241 Tony Curtis, THE KILLING (U); 7.34; RED GARTERS (U); 5.49; Mon. Timbuktu (U).	<b>ABC TOWER</b> - WES 1210 Sterling Hayden, THE KILLING (U); 4.3, 7.19; Kiss Me Deadly (A); 5.54; Mon. The Journey (A).	<b>ALHAMBRA</b> - TIP 1410 Tomorrow for 3 days: Paul Newberry, The Left-Handed Gun (A); Wind Across the Everglades (A).	<b>WEDNESBURY CINEMA</b> RIALTO, Wednesbury WED 1566 Edward G. Robinson, A Bullet For Joey (A); Richard East, One (A); Mon. House of Settlement (A).
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