

Royal Alex: Full house for '68-'69

BOOKING AHEAD: Five months remain of its current calendar but already the Royal Alexandra is nearly solidly booked for the '68-'69 season.

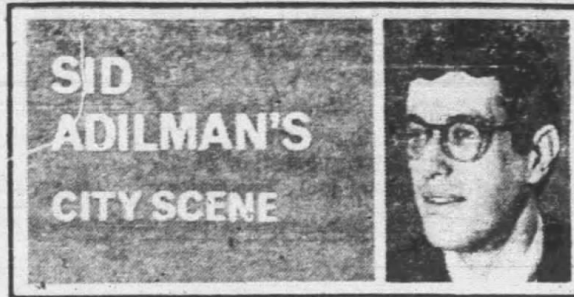
Lined up to date are: 15 weeks of Theatre Toronto, six of Spring Thaw, eight for Theatre Guild subscriptions, six under Mayor Moore (Anne Of Green Gables and Sunshine Town from the Charlottetown Festival) and at least three with the APA Repertory.

Theatre Guild offerings are as usual from this season's Broadway fare, and coming to us is a comedy *There's A Girl In My Soup* (the month of September) and a drama *Spofford* (Dec. 9-Jan. 14).

To maximize chances of a profitable stay, a cutback is expected in the APA visit which last year was eight weeks.

THIS LAND: The Travellers have sung for Queen Elizabeth in Charlottetown, for Prime Minister Pearson in Toronto, at the London Palladium for civil rights and strike marches, and to millions of Canadians at various events from political rallies to camp fires.

They are one of our national emblems like Wayne and Shuster and Juliette. They don't penetrate deeply the sensitive aspects of religion, politics or sex. They don't offend. They retain the knack of entertaining to



a broad audience. And they have done so for 14 years.

For the next two weeks, The Travellers are singing nightly at the *Savarin* in the main lounge. This is their first local club appearance in a year. Their knack is evident, their longevity in a field that uses up performers rapidly, explainable.

HERE AND THERE: Faye Dunnaway is signed for the movie of Arthur Miller's *After The Fall* in the characterization that it has been claimed Miller based on his former wife Marilyn Monroe . . . August Schellenberg joins the Neptune Theatre repertory in Halifax for the summer . . . Kildare Dobbs is Maclean's latest books contributor, with a regular column, not a full page at his disposal.

BUSY, BUSY: On a year's leave of absence for the obvious reason, National Ballet dancer Charmain Turner has given birth to her first child, a boy. Her husband, Glen Gilmour, is also a dancer with the company . . . In Montreal, Larry Kent is shooting his next

feature, *Sherry*, which deals with a married woman who yearns to be a model. Kent's movie *High*, so far rejected by Ontario and Quebec censors, begins its U.S. commercial run May 29 in San Francisco. Customs officials have allowed it entry.

ON YORKVILLE: "There's a man who's been out sailing in a decade of dreams!"

"And he takes her to a schooner, and he treats her like a queen."

This is the barest sampling of the poetic imagery conjured by Joni Mitchell.

Miss Mitchell is a folksinger and she displays these new writings in song at the *Riverboat* on Yorkville until a week Sunday.

Very much like Leonard Cohen and to some extent like Gordon Lightfoot, Miss Mitchell has learned the craft of developing a character within a song.

Miss Mitchell has brought with her a clutch of freshly composed material, each an elaborated poem dealing with either the city or the sea.

Some, of course, are too long for a precise effect. Yet each in its own way is proof that this Saskatchewan blonde is blooming into the front rank of our young composers.

BITS AND PIECES: Kenneth Dight has the speaking part of Lord Nelson in the CBC Radio musical *Lady Emma* slated for broadcast in June.

Leo Leyden, last seen in that ill-fated *Darling Of The Day*, is both the acting and singing voice of Sir William Hamilton, the husband . . .

Kate Reid a star of Arthur Miller's *The Price* settled on Broadway for a long run commutes to Toronto on Sundays to see her children . . .

Howard Tait of Foster Advertising and Sean MacGrath replace John Holden in advertising and public relations duties respectively at the CNE.

MIXED BAG: The Toronto cast of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* in June moves into Montreal's Sir George Williams University theatre for three and a half months . . . New albums by The Beatles and Zal Yanovsky formerly of *The Lovin' Spoonful* are calculated to create a trend back to the rock 'n roll sounds of the 50s . . . Michael Sarrazin is cast opposite Eleanor Parker in a western movie *Wylie* being made this month.