

Japanese Ryuzanji's Experimental Twist

Macbeth Takes Machinegun-Action Stage

A modern interpretation of William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" will take to a Seoul stage this weekend with a new twist by the Japanese drama troupe the Ryuzanji Company.

The performance will be a special Invitational show to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Korea's Kwangjang Company.

Led by director/actor Show Ryuzanji, the troupe from Japan's capital is one of Japan's leading small theater groups and was founded in 1984.

Ryuzanji, taking the role of director and also King Duncan, is a multi-talented theatrical actor nicknamed the "scoundrel of small theaters" for his off-beat experimental approaches to the modern performing arts, according to the Kwangjang Company.

His version of Shakespeare's "Scottish play" takes a new twist with motives borrowed from Francis Coppola's film "Apocalypse Now" - the tragic hero and his ambitious wife are two characters lost in violent instincts in the war fronts of the Mekong Delta.

A revolutionary approach to the centuries-old classic struggle against human fate, Ryuzanji's production is expected to be a dynamic and breath-taking "action play" clad in machine guns instead of swords, leather jackets for armor and helicopters for horses.

The interpretation of the traditional tragic hero Macbeth is also made anew, presenting him as a modern



A new interpretation of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" will be seen in Seoul this weekend, staged by the Japanese troupe Ryuzanji Company.

man who has lost his own identity in the midst of the chaos and is swept away by the violence lurking beneath every human being, said the organizers.

In the role of the ambition-driven protagonist is Masayuki Shiouya, a star on stage, TV and film who was also featured in the 1984 Paul Schrader

movie about the controversial Japanese writer Yukio Mishima.

The production will be staged at the Seoul Education Culture Center, a newly opened complex in southern Seoul Aug. 24 through 26 at 4 and 7:30 p.m. (no day performance on Monday). Further information on tickets is available by calling 741-0369.

To Attend Memorial Concert for Nat'l Anthem Composer

By Hong Sun-hee
Staff Reporter

"He was a very sweet person. He was a nice husband and a nice father. And he was straightforward and patriotic about his musical ideas," recollected the wife of the late Ahn Eak-tay, composer of "Aegukka," Korean national anthem.

Lolita Ahn, 72, residing in the Mediterranean island of Majorca, flew into Seoul Wednesday afternoon to attend a string of memorial events for her late husband. The pioneer composer-conductor who died in Majorca in 1965 at the age of 59 is the Culture Ministry-designated Cultural Figure of August.

At the time of his death, he was in despair because of the cancellation of an international music festival he had created three years before in Seoul.

"I am extremely happy to attend a memorial concert for him which will shed light on his various aspects as a composer," said the Spanish granny.

The concert to start at 730 p.m. Monday at the National Theater in Changchung-dong will kick off with a documentary film presentation on him and will introduce a requiem, a symphonic poem and a symphonic fantasy composed by him as well as different arrangements of "Aegukka."

His music belongs to the late-Romantic School as his teacher Richard Strauss and also has a strong ethnic flavor as influenced by his other teacher Zoltan Kodaly. As a fanatic of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, he handled the symphony and the chorus with equal importance.

The widow and her youngest daughter stayed in Korea in 1981-83 financed by the Korea Broadcasting System. She gave up her Korean nationality in 1987 for social security conveniences.

She said, "I can manage my living. But frankly speaking, help from the Korean government will be deeply appreciated."

"My husband is still remembered in Majorca. There is a street named after him and a statue in front of the Symphony Hall in the city. But I was not entitled to receive pensions because he died as a Korean."

Ahn Eak-tay conducted over 60 fa-



Late Korean musician Ahn Eak-tay's wife Lolita, left, and his eldest daughter Elena, right, pose for the camera before a poster of Ahn, composer of the Korean national anthem. The Spanish ladies came to Korea to attend a number of memorial activities for him, Culture Ministry-designated Cultural Figure of August.

mous symphonies in the world including all major U.S. and five major London orchestras. He worked with the Berlin Philharmonic and the Vienna

Philharmonic.

The cellist-turned-composer founded and directed a symphony for 10 years in Majorca, which is one of the most popular European summer resorts.

Mrs. Ahn has lived in the same old house in Palma del Miorca street for 45 years until the house owner asked her to vacate it in March, last year. A Korean businessman in Spain purchased it in September and will donate it to the Korean government when the renovation is completed. Thus she will soon return to the two-storied house, which will be converted to a memorial museum later.

"I still keep his concert clothes, music scores and concert programs for the day," she said.

On-going and planned memorial events for the pioneer musician include a photo exhibition at the Toksu Palace on Aug. 15-31, a seminar discussing his music today, and a national anthem monument to be erected in Seoul.

His music is to be rendered by the KBS Symphony Orchestra and a combined chorus under the baton of Kim Man-bok at the Monday concert. Included in the repertoire are "Metamorfosen" which is a requiem, "Music Coming From Heaven," Symphonic Poem "Nongae" and Symphonic Fantasia "Korea."

Lolita Ahn and Elena, her eldest daughter, will return to Spain at the end of this month.

Author of Mozart Biography
Hildesheimer Dies in Switzerland

POSCHIAVO, Switzerland (AP) - Wolfgang Hildesheimer, whose fresh look at Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart became an international bestseller, died Wednesday. He was 74.

The German-born author succumbed to a heart attack at his home in this small town in southeastern Switzerland, close to the Italian border, his family said.

Survivors include his wife and two step-daughters. Funeral arrangements were not immediately announced.

"Mozart" won rave reviews when it was published in 1977 after two decades of research into the life of the composer admired by Hildesheimer as "perhaps the greatest genius in recorded history."

It differed from previous biographies in allowing that Mozart was both a genius and a man. One critic wrote that it showed a "genius in soiled underclothes."

Hildesheimer, a close friend of Germany's Guenter Grass and the late Swiss novelist Max Frisch, first caught critics' attention in 1952 with his "Loveless Legends," a collection of amusing and malicious tales of the world of intellectuals and artists.

Novels included "Tynset," minutes of a sleepless night, which was published in 1965, and "Marbot," a 1981 "biography" of a totally imaginary historical figure in Victorian England.

"Marbot" was acclaimed by critics as a new masterpiece, as having achieved what Hildesheimer termed the highest goal of literature: turning fiction into truth.

A year later, he surprised his fans by

announcing that "Marbot" marked his farewell to writing. Fiction, he said, was coming to an end in a world that was doomed because Earth would become uninhabitable.

"Literature as I see it is ceasing to exist or is already dead," he said in a 1985 interview with The Associated Press. Moreover, he added, "all of us will be without readers in a foreseeable future because everybody is too busy worrying about how to survive."

Letters kept by his parents show that his pessimistic outlook was virulent even when he was still a boy sent to a school in England by his Jewish father before the family emigrated from Nazi Germany in 1933.

He began a career as stage designer and graphic artist before making his first steps in literature. After a stint as British information officer in Palestine, he was interpreter at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. His early novels reflect some of the haunting testimony he then had to translate.

Hildesheimer, whose ancestors included an eminent Jewish theologian and whose father was an early supporter of Zionism, settled in Poschiavo more than 30 years ago. He was awarded several literature prizes. Switzerland made him an honorary citizen in 1982.

In the past few years he concentrated on his collages and other works of art featured at various international exhibitions. Among them were joint shows with fellow artist-writer Guenter Grass.

Novelist Hutchinson Gives
First Hand Look
at Irish Violence

BELFAST (Reuters) - Best-selling novelist Michelle Hutchinson certainly does write at first hand about the violence in Northern Ireland.

The Irish Republican Army crippled her policeman husband, gunman shot at her family. They had to move house, they will always be potential targets.

Amidst the mayhem, the quietly determined young wife sat down to write what one critic called "one of the best terrorist thrillers ever to come out of Northern Ireland."

"Summary Justice" was a fast-paced and violent thriller about a policeman investigating paramilitary racketeers. He is betrayed by a police colleague. The IRA kills his wife and children. He goes on the warpath, seeking revenge.

"It was therapy. It transformed real life into a fictionalized scene. It was more comforting than facing up to reality," Hutchinson said of her debut novel.

Hutchinson, who also finds time to bring up three young children, run a home for abandoned animals and work on job creation projects in the community, seemed almost bemused by its success.

"Summary Justice" was number one for six weeks in Northern Ireland and I outsold Jackie Collins and Wilbur Smith."

Her second novel "Dieback," which tells the tale of an IRA assassin hired by the KGB, has now been published.

Hutchinson writes under the pen-name S.J. Michaels. Many critics thought by the style and content of the books that she was a man.

Ailing Broadway Sees Edison Theater Close

NEW YORK (UPI) - Ailing Broadway has lost a theater, the first in nearly 10 years, with the gutting of the Edison Theater to make way for a nightclub.

The 499-seat Edison, converted from a ballroom in the Hotel Edison in 1970, was the home of "Oh Calcutta," a sex revue, for 13 years, closing in 1989. Its last tenant was "Those Were The Days," an English-Yiddish revue, which closed in February.

A spokesman for the hotel said entrepreneur Jean Denoyer, the new lessee, is stripping the theater for installation of a supper club slated to open in November.

The last theaters to die were the Morosco and Bijou Theaters, pulled down in 1982 to make way for the Marriott Marquis Hotel. Another theater, the Criterion Center, failed as a commercial venture last season and has been leased to the non-profit Roundabout Theater.

Broadway had more than 60 theaters in its heyday prior to World War II.

Of its remaining 37 theaters, only 12 are occupied, but thanks to the high tourist season, 11 of these shows are reporting attendance levels of more than 90 percent capacity with total receipts last week of \$5 million.

Some of the 25 theaters currently

dark will find new tenants beginning in September. The Broadhurst, Circle In the Square, Plymouth, Marquis, Royale and Minskoff already have show bookings in the new season.

Maria Di Dia, longtime manager of "Oh Calcutta," said it was "personally devastating" to lose the Edison.

"But it's a tough economy, and the hotel business has to do what it has to do," she said.

"In the small-size theater category there is plenty of competition from off-Broadway theaters for shows that might have been interested in the Edison, and labor costs are a lot less off-Broadway."

Film Critic Declares. Brando Greatest of All

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD (UPI) - The debate over which actor past and present might be called the best of them all arises from time to time, always to no avail.

Informed professionals, however, can make the debate interesting.

Marlon Brando's name appears among the top three or four on lists submitted by serious critics and film filberts alike.

Others are Laurence Olivier, Henry Fonda, Spencer Tracy and George C. Scott.

Author Richard Schickel — 23-year film critic for Time magazine — picks Brando. Not coincidentally, Schickel has written a new book, "Brando: A Life In Our Times."

The book traces Brando's career, ignoring the muck-raking, rumors, half-truths and garbage that pass for biography these days in most tomes about Hollywood celebrities.

Schickel cannot be called a Brando "fan." He's never met the actor, although he's seen all his 34 movies several times over the years and in recent research for the book.

The author does weave in elements of Brando's private life, but principally

in regard to how events affected his chances of roles and pictures; indeed, how his personal misadventures may have influenced his performances.

"Both Brando and John Barrymore — presumably the two greatest American actors this century has produced — had an utter contempt for acting," Schickel said in an interview.

Of the 5,000 or so movies Schickel has seen during his lifetime, he singles out Brando's projects as among his favorites.

"In every movie he did something wonderful about establishing a living presence," Schickel said.

"At his very best, Brando is as good as any actor I've ever seen on the screen. I think he was surprised by his own talent."

"There are movie actors who are very effective, who aren't really actors at all in the full, formal, trained sense of the word. Brando himself mentioned guys like Cary Grant. I'm talking about actors with a capital 'A,' not movie stars."

"My own actor friends are sort of in awe of Brando's behavior on camera, which goes beyond acting. It may be just a look or a gesture that can't be learned. It comes from some instinct, combined with an uncanny sense of

observation.

"People tell me Brando is so acutely observational that when he watches someone fiddling around his hands or perhaps twitching in a certain way, he will begin doing the same thing as a state of behavior."

Schickel doubts Brando deserves to be called a "method" actor, in the sense that the late acting coach Lee Strasberg taught the so-called method. In fact Brando never worked with Strasberg and only briefly attended the actors studio.

If any acting teacher could claim a contribution to Brando's style, it would be Stella Adler, with whom he studied for years.

"Brando is a gifted observer and mimic of human behavior," Schickel said. "That's where those breathtaking moments in his performances come from."

"When I watch him it never seems like acting. Take his performance in 'Reflections In A Golden Eye,' which hardly anyone liked. His acting was great as a sort of repressed homosexual."

"Other works like 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'On The Waterfront' were extraordinary. Both performances have been satirized and pa-

rodied. Everybody knows them. When you go back and see them in total context, those performances still blow you away, building to those unforgettable moments."

Schickel says among today's young actors only newcomer John Turturro (who won best actor award at the Cannes Film Festival this year for "Barton Fink") approaches Brando's impact as a performer.

"For passion and fire and all that, I find James Woods fascinating. He has the kind of intensity and energy that Brando had. Certainly Robert De Niro is right up there. And Dustin Hoffman has done some awfully good things."

"Spencer Tracy and James Cagney were terrific, I think. Gary Cooper was an actor other actors like — the simple truthfulness of what he did."

Schickel is inclined to agree with what Jack Nicholson once observed: That all actors are indebted to Brando for giving them their freedom.

Whether one agrees with Schickel's high opinion of Brando, it is generally acknowledged that movie acting has not been the same since he introduced a new era of performing with his stunning turn in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

TOWN CRIER

EXHIBITION

Bae Bok-ran's "Representation of Dreams" painting series at Kwanhun Gallery (733-6469) Aug. 21-27.

Choi Hyun-ik's colored ink paintings on nature at Seoul Gallery (735-7711) Aug. 20-25.

Paintings by six members of Iyon Group at Gallery 63 (547-0735) Aug. 19-29.

Kim Mi-hyun's mixed media paintings at Third Gallery (735-4151) Aug. 19-27.

Five-man paintings at Gallery Kurim (657-1548) Aug. 20-Sept. 28.

Roe Chung-hwa's paintings at Cham-sil Lotte Gallery (411-6782) Aug. 21-26.

Colored ink paintings by 24 members of Chongto Group at Seoul Gallery (735-7711) Aug. 20-25.

Soh Young-suk's folk painting-style works at Trade Center Hyundai Gallery (552-2233) Aug. 20-30.

Ahn Jung-min's "pure pigments on paper, 1991," at Total Gallery (762-3623) Aug. 21-29.

Yoo Chang-hyun's oils at Gallery Doll (734-7348) Aug. 21-27.

Oh Young-hee's wood prints at Hyundai Department Store Gallery (547-2233) Aug. 20-28.

Ceramic works by five artists at Jahaomoon Gallery (358-6808) Aug. 15-31.

Im Ung-sik's photos at National Museum of Contemporary Art (503-9675) till Sept. 27.

Korean-style paintings, handicrafts and calligraphic works by 408 artists at National Museum of Contemporary Art till Aug. 31.

Eleven-man paintings dubbed "Exhibition of Sea, Sunshine and Roses" at Gallery Young (514-4029) Aug. 10-19 (first part), Aug. 22-31 (second part).

CONCERT

Midsummer night concert featuring veteran musicians on Aug. 22-23 at 8 p.m. at Yu-lim Art Hall (514-9600). Program includes Gossec's Gavotte, Faure's "Sicilienne," Mozart's Concerto for Flute, Harp and Piano, Liszt's "Venezia e Napoli," Anton Eberl's Grand Trio for Clarinet, Cello, Piano and Hummel's Trio for Flute, Cello and Violin and viola duo works by Beethoven, Stamitz and Kalliwoda.

Underground choral group Song Searchers' concert on Aug. 6-25 at Hakchon Theater (763-8223 / 4) at 7:30 p.m. with additional shows at 4:30 p.m. on Friday-Sunday. There is no performance on Monday.

DANCE

Dance performances by Universal Ballet Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 24-26 at the Grand Hall of the Sejong Cultural Center (799-4438).

MOVIE

"My Stepmother Is An Alien," (English) at Myongbo Theater (274-2121) and Cinema West (323-3121).

"Hot Steps," (English) at Chungang Theater (776-8866).

"Backdraft," (English) at Dongsung Art Center (741-3391), Lotte World (417-0211) and New World Theater (312-1633).

"Terminator 2: Judgment Day," (English) at Seoul Theater (277-3011), Broadway Theater (511-2301) and Lotte World Cinema (417-0213).

"Home Alone," (English) at Tan-songsong (764-3745) and Cine House (544-7171).

"Field of Dreams," (English) at Hoam Art Hall (751-5555).

"Son of General II," (Korean) at Piccadilly Theater (765-2245) and Cine House (544-7171).

"Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," (English) at Seoul Theater (277-3011) and Cine House (544-7171).

DRAMA

"My Poor Marat," premiere of Soviet playwright Aleksei N. Arbuzov's play by the Bando Theater Company, at the Patanggol Small Theater (745-0745) until Aug. 31.

"Dr. Korczak and Ihre Kinder (Dr. Korczak and His Children)," Taeha Theater Company's new production of

the play by Erwin Sylvanus, at the Tongsung-dong Small Theater (745-1214) until Sept. 1.

"Can't Pay! Won't Pay!" Taehangno Company's production of the popular satire play by Dario Fo at the Taehangno Small Theater (764-6052) until Aug. 31.

MISCELLANEOUS

The British Women's Group's coffee morning for newcomers on Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. at Shirley Sallah's residence. Further info at 795-3252.

Seoul Association of Language Teachers' steering committee program at ELS Chongno (278-2902) on Aug. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. Details at 413-2692.

The British Women's Group's monthly meeting on Aug. 27 at 10 a.m. Further info at 743-6947.

The American Women's Club's newcomers' coffee on Aug. 29 at 10 a.m. in the Banpo-dong area. Further info at 535-0453.

International Outdoor Club's cross-cultural tour of Shinreuk Temple and Yongreung royal tombs on Aug. 25. Further info at 724-3353.

CHUNCHON

Exhibition of sculptures by 20 artists at Chunchon Cultural Center Aug. 17-23.