

Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

STRATFORD, ENGLAND — This piece should be titled (with apologies to Dr. Strangelove): "Dr. Baxter, or How I learned to Stop Yawning and Love the Bard."

I've been traveling with Frank Baxter, the New World's biggest Bard buff for more than a week and I have been afraid to admit that I don't enjoy watching Shakespeare in performance as much as I do reading his plays.

I'm constantly distracted by meaningless ranting and baggy tights. Also I have a terrible time understanding what is going on. I try, God knows, but unless I do my homework I am drifting and yawning and my stomach is rumbling as if I were in church. The one exception was a performance of "King Lear" several years ago at the Ashland, Ore., Shakespearean Festival.

TO ADMIT THIS shortcoming in Stratford would be like saying you're a Republican at a Democratic convention. So I tried to keep my eyes open and my big mouth shut.

Last night Baxter and I, plus several London imports, attended a dress rehearsal of "Henry IV, Part II" by the Royal Shakespeare Company in what is unquestionably the most hideous building in all of Britain—the Memorial Theater here in Stratford, an enormous pile of red brick with a stainless-steel box office and an artificial fountain in the foyer.

It looked as if it belonged on the UCLA campus. The fact that it was built by U.S. funds is not a happy thought.

DUE TO AN enormous ignorance of the way Shakespeare is best played, the architect separated the audience from the actors by a proscenium arch in a manner that the Elizabethans would never have tolerated.

Ever since it opened, the Stratford theater has been trying to cover up the error by the construction of ramps and forestages over the orchestra pit. And although they are guarded in their statements, I am sure everything is blamed on too much American money.

The orchestra seats have nameplates of famous Shakespearean performers. I sat upon the plush lap of "Sara Siddons" and thoughts of the dear lady, long since gone, enabled me to face the problems of Henry IV with considerably more assurance than had I been sitting elsewhere.

"Henry IV, Part II" is not the most interesting of Shakespeare's plays, but it does provide the actor who plays Falstaff with a fine opportunity to prance. In this case it was Hugh Griffith, whose role of the father-in-law in the movie, "Tom Jones," won him an Oscar nomination.

The acting and the direction might have been acceptable, if not exceptional, were it not for the dreary stagecraft which cast a pall on everything. The production was designed by John Bury, whose name carries a subtle suggestion for the future disposition of the settings.

AT THE intermission, Baxter broke the ice with the statement: "Of course, I don't like to see Shakespeare performed. Long ago I learned to stay away from productions of his plays."

It seemed incredible that America's number one Shakespeare salesman didn't like his product.

"Oh no," said Baxter, "I think that he is meant to be read and savored. I can produce a better version of 'Hamlet' in my own mind than I can ever see played on the stage. I know all the characters. I can use my imagination to build the castle at Elsinore that is far more realistic than any on the stage."

"Shakespeare wrote 'Ham-

Santa Fe Street Work Authorized

Improvement of parts of Santa Fe Avenue north of Del Amo Boulevard in the Dominguez area has been authorized by the Board of Supervisors. An appropriation of \$5,200 was voted Tuesday.

The project includes widening of the street to join recently installed curbs and gutters. A 20-foot section of existing street will be repaved.

School Bus Accident Rate Termed Good

California's 9,343 school buses operated an estimated 118,000,000 miles in 1963, transporting nearly one million pupils every day—without a single student death, Highway Patrol Commissioner Bradford M. Crittenden said.

"This record once again meant that school buses provide the safest ride in California," the commissioner pointed out.

"The patrol inspects every California school bus at least once a year to assure maintenance of proper safety stand-

ards," he said. "Patrol officers also conduct written and behind-the-wheel examinations for school bus driver applicants."

DURING 1963 there were 1016 school bus accidents resulting in 400 injuries—166 of them pupils—and two deaths, both persons in other vehicles involved in collisions with buses. The fatality rate for school bus accidents thus was 1.69 per 100 million vehicle miles, far below the 5.2 rate for all vehicles.

A total of 1,763 motorists were cited for passing a stopped school bus displaying dual flashing red lights. Eight accidents were attributed to this violation, the commissioner said.

If, on vacation, you find yourself at a high altitude or in an excessively hot and humid climate, give your body a chance to adjust before you start your sight-seeing or other exertions, your Los Angeles County Heart Assn. says.

Holdup Men Escape With \$50 in Loot

Two men robbed a south Torrance liquor store of about \$50 Tuesday night.

Harry Campisi, 50, owner of the Campisi Liquor store at 3614 Pacific Coast Hwy., told police he was coming from a back room of the store when the two entered the store.

One of the robbers stopped at the counter and laid a .32-caliber automatic revolver on the counter.

"This is it" the holdup man

said as his partner walked behind the counter. The second man was carrying a shotgun, the victim said.

"Open it up. Open it up" the shotgun-toting gunman said, referring to the cash register.

Campisi took money from the cash register and handed it to one of the robbers who ordered him to go to a rear room of the store and lay down. Campisi said he com-

plied until after the robbers left the store.

Both men were described as being in their late twenties. One wore olive drab pants and the other a Navy top coat.

Getting away from it all? You'll come back in better shape if you don't take on excessively strenuous vacation sports or excessive sight-seeing, your Los Angeles County Heart Assn. says.

Sav-on METAL SUPPLIES

BLU-CHIP STAMPS

METAL Cat Bed
A regal bed with white enameled sides trimmed with gold brass rail and has a soft pad with zippered cover. **4.49**

Plastic Cat Pan
Made of hi-impact, sanitary styrene. Has easy to hold rim. Comes in 3 colors. 15" x 12" x 3 1/2". **1.49**

Cat Diner
Double dish for food & water. Made of durable polyethylene in 3 colors. Each dish inside measures 3 3/4" x 1 1/2". **49c**

Dual Brush
One side has black bristles the other side has metal bristles set into rubber backing. **79c**

Cat Collar
Soft plastic in ass't sizes and colors with little bell attached. **33c**

Cat-Away
WHITENING — Fine cat repellent spray bomb for indoors or out. **99c**

Nail Clippers
Neatly sharpened to cut fine, easy & smooth. **79c**

Tie-Out Stakes
Screw Type. Made of strong metal. 17" long. **79c**

Cat Dish
Round polyethylene dish in 3 colors. Inside measure 4 1/2" x 2". **29c**

Tie-Out Chains
Strong heavy weight metal chain, 12 ft. long. **79c**

SPRAY PAINT
COLOR JET For interior or exterior Assorted colors 1b oz. **59c**

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Tints & Dyes For Machine or hand dyeing. Reg. 35c **4 1.00**

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Ready to Serve 15 oz. cans **12 89c**

HERSHEY'S CANDY BARS
Choice of Semi-Sweet - Milk - Almond or Kisses. Reg. 39c **29c**

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HAIR SPRAY By Caryl Richards Lotion Enriched 13 oz. Size **66c**

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TIP TOP — Assorted count and style. Reg. 1.00 value package **59c**

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The strongest thong under the sun.

Foam rubber soles. Ideal for casual wear around the house, yard, pool, or beach. Assorted colors. **23c** Men's & **29c** Ladies'

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All with the Chip-resistant SAFEDRE RIM

Available in: Ass't, Golden, Smoke

8 oz. Juice, 12 oz. Beverage, 15 oz.

8: 1.00

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8 1/2" Vase Prescut design, Crystal clear glass. **69c**

8" Bud Vase Milk white glass, Prescut design. **19c**

Milk White Vase 7" high - Vintage Pattern. **49c**

Milk White Vase 7 1/4" high - Seal-topped design. **33c**

10 oz. Pilsner GLASSES by LIBBEY Crystal clear glasses with "Safedge" rims. **4 for 1.00**

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CANNON or DUNDEE — Beautiful bath size cotton towels in assorted pastel colors. **98c**

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RONSON "Escort" **10.88**

Fast drying with 4 heat selections. Extra large floral patterned hood. Whisper quiet, interference free motor, comfortable shoulder strap. 10 ft. cord.

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SAV-ON DELUXE HAND PACKED

Luscious old fashioned ice cream in an assortment of 13 irresistible flavors. You get up to 40% more when it's hand packed at Sav-on.

ICE CREAM CONES Single Dip **5c** Double Dip **10c**

Pr. **30c** Qt. **59c**

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Light, but sturdy, 1" tubular aluminum frames. Two-color 2 1/4" webbing with Lustral Lite strands. Folds up smooth and compact. Chairs have 5 webs, chaise has 6 webs.

Chaise **6.88** Chair **3.33** Recliner **4.98**

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Hand Care Kit Contains 3 1/2 oz. of Hand Cream — to moisturize, soften & protect... And 1 1/2 oz. of Multi-Nail — to prevent splitting, chipping, breaking and hard cuticles. **1.50**

HAIR SPRAY Preferred by Professionals. Choice of Regular or Hard-to-Hold. 20 oz. **98c**

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5 Transistor Push Button Control **39.88**

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Girls' Panties Adorably styled in 2 bar tricot knit, tiny pastel embroidered trim. 4 to 14. **33c**

Ladies' Panties "Skintone" — 2 bar tricot acetate & nylon in white only. Sizes 5 to 16. **2:1.00**

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FLAG KIT: 3x5 ft. colorful cotton flags, jointed 6 ft. flag pole with golden ornament. Wall bracket and brochure on U.S. Flag included. **4.98**

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6' x 12" with staff... **3.98**

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Cotton blouses in gay prints, solid pastels or stripes. Sleeveless with assorted collar styles. 32 to 38. **88c**

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