

## ARTS NOTES

### More time to treasure 'Treasure Houses'

"The Treasure Houses of Britain," the largest and most ambitious exhibition in the history of the National Gallery of Art, will be extended through April 13.

J. Carter Brown, the gallery's director, announced the extension yesterday. The Ford Motor Co. is underwriting the extension. Formerly, the exhibit was scheduled to close March 16. Hours were rescheduled to 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and noon to 9 p.m. Sunday.

In addition, screening of episodes of the TV series "Brideshead Revisited" will begin April 1. Episodes will be screened at 12:30 p.m. daily and at 6 p.m. Sunday.

### Theater critics get what's coming to them

The Folger Shakespeare Library's Shakespeare Quarterly has a new special issue out that is considerably livelier than most scholarly journals. The issue is devoted to theater critics and how they review productions of the Bard's plays. The titles of some of the articles — "Let's Kill All the Critics," "The Shakespearean Actor as Kamikaze Pilot" or "Churls Just Wanna Have Fun" — give a sense of the venom contained within.

Among articles by local writers is one by Shakespeare Theatre at the Folger actress Mikel Lambert, titled innocently enough, "Actors and Critics." Miss Lambert recently directed the Folger's critically maligned "Othello." Now she has her forum for rebuttal. Also well worth reading is a piece by Washington Post drama critic emeritus Richard L. Coe, full of juicy tidbits on reviewing from his nearly 50-year career. Call the Shakespeare Quarterly at 544-4600 to obtain a copy of this provocative publication.



A 1918 poster at Archives exhibit.

### Uncle Sam takes to the stage

"Dear Uncle Sam," a one-hour play based on documents and images in the National Archives, returns to the Fifth Floor Theater of the Archives building (Eighth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW) for two free noontime performances — Friday, Feb. 21, and Wednesday, Feb. 26. Created and performed by the local troupe Paradise Island Express, the production premiered in November to enthusiastic audiences. The archives opened its records to the theater company, which found a bonanza of dramatic inspiration in case histories from files of the Justice Department, the Children's Bureau and other federal agencies.

Not coincidentally, Feb. 21 is also opening day for a new exhibit at the Archives, "Uncle Sam Speaks," a look at 200 years of the art of persuasion. This colorful collection of 117 posters and broadsides will be on display for one year in the Circular Gallery. Exhibition hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

# Style/Arts

## Backstage

# Critical Role Reversal

By Mike McIntyre

Special to The Washington Post

Actress Mikel Lambert, a resident company member of the Shakespeare Theatre at the Folger, has reservations about the need for professional theater critics. "I sometimes wonder if we wouldn't be better off simply singling out any individual looking vaguely thoughtful after a performance and, having established that he or she is literate, ask this person to write down what he or she thought of it all," Lambert suggests in her recent essay "Actors and Critics."

In a reversal of roles—one that will no doubt gladden the hearts of many an actor—Lambert throws a few slings and arrows at New York and Washington critics, including The Washington Post's David Richards and Megan Rosenfeld and the Washington Times' Hap Erstein. She saves her most stinging review for New York magazine's John Simon, whom she pictures "hunched over his typewriter like a hawk, eyes ablaze, with a full quiver of poisoned darts."

Lambert's is among 16 articles written by actors, directors, scholars and, yes, even critics, that comprise "Reviewing Shakespeare," a special issue of the Shakespeare Quarterly that explores the relationship between those who perform the Bard's plays and those who write about them. Copies are available for \$5 by writing Shakespeare Quarterly, Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol St. SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

### 'Williams and Walker'

"When the moment arrives, you play the moment," says Takoma Park's Vincent D.

predominantly white audiences for which he performed. "He created pathetic characters that weren't as slow as they seemed."

"Williams and Walker" stars Ben Harney, who won the 1982 Tony award for best actor in a musical for his performance in "Dreamgirls," and Vondie Curtis-Hall, who was also in "Dreamgirls." The show runs through March 30.

### Living Stage Benefit

Living Stage Theatre Company, the community outreach program of Arena Stage, will hold its 20th anniversary benefit tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the French Embassy. A cocktail reception and buffet will be followed by a showing of François Truffaut's "Small Change." Tickets cost \$75; call 554-9066.

### Odds and Ends

George Curry will perform his one-man show "Charles Dickens at His Reading Desk" tonight at 8:15 p.m. at Mt. Vernon College's Post Hall; call 331-3467 . . .

Two one-acts—Richard Washer's "Fulcrum" and Bill Robinson's "The Big Picture"—will be given staged readings tonight at 8 at the Source Warehouse Rep. And Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Main Stage Gail Wronsky's full-length play "The Rhythms of Euphemia" will be given a staged reading . . .

Theatrical Research and Development will sponsor an evening of jazz, poetry and performance tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. at d.c. space to help raise funds to renovate an abandoned storefront at 14th and T streets NW into a coffeehouse. Artists appearing in