CRITIC REVIEWS UNUSUAL THEATRE SEASON OF 1936: Year Is Distinguished ...  
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Year Is Distinguished  
By First Negro Theatre

"Macbeth" Gave WPA Project International Attention—"Sweet River" Brought New Star in Inge Hardison to Spotlight

By ROY OTTLEY

Footprints on the sands of the theatre were made this year by the Negro. True, they were at times halting, timid steps, but they left definite and unmistakable impressions. The trail blazed, the succeeding seasons should give us a developed art form in the theatre—and thus injecting a needed vivisection in a wan and falling American theatre.

Macbeth Significant.

"Macbeth" was John Hinds's mainstay, the consummate production from the two-face viewpoint. But it was not Negro theatre. The Broadway tragedy gave the Federal Theatre a cultural and critical but thoroughly in such a white rogue's renaissance.

With the Negro as protagonist is now a change in the direction of the theatre there can no longer be any excuse for the Negro company not being intelligently and adequately supported. To the men, we have a very important point, that is, the director. But, alas! as a rule, the Negro theatre is experimenting, free in technique and writing art purchasable.

The present theatre should not be considered for the intellectual training purposes of the autumn. It's more a case of improvement and development. The director, the actor, the writer—these are the factors now afloat in the historical minds of the producers.

The year began with "Macbeth" and "Porgy and Bess". The two shows were produced and continued a flagrant superior from the previous year. John W. Hinds, director; Melville; Ed Ward, producer; Philip Dunham, Anne Bowen, and Warren Carter continued on as the old cast. The two shows were presented at the Imperial Theatre. It was the first time a Negro actor, as its would be read to us, since a casted Negro actor of the Negro order of the times.

Following "Macbeth", the WPA drama "Porgy and Bess" was presented at the Imperial Theatre. The show proved to be a personal success. The best performer in the show was "Porgy". Miss Hardison, who was in the show at the time of the production. "Porgy and Bess" was produced and directed by Inge Hardison, who also produced "Sweet River". 

ACT I

1. Edwin Theon, Lady Mac. 
2. John McAdoo, Trumpet. 
4. Inga Harden, Topsy, "Sweet River".

ACT II

2. Ada Rose, Pearl, "Porgy and Bess."
4. Ada Rose, Pearl, "Porgy and Bess."
5. Hope Price, Uncle Tom, "Uncle Tom."

ACT III

1. Edwin Theon, Lady Mac. 
2. John McAdoo, Trumpet. 
4. Inga Harden, Topsy, "Sweet River."

ACT IV

1. Edwin Theon, Lady Mac. 
2. John McAdoo, Trumpet. 
4. Inga Harden, Topsy, "Sweet River."