

"NATIVE SON," PRODUCED BY ORSON WELLES, BEGINS MONDAY AT THE NIXON THEATRE

Orson Welles, missing from the Broadway sector since the critical Assembly guillotined "Danton's Son," enters the lists again as producer and director of "Native Son," the original Mercury production of which Mr. Welles will



CANADA LEE and PATRICIA PALMER in "NATIVE SON"

will present at the Nixon theatre, starting Monday evening, September 29.

Dramatized by Paul Green and Richard Wright from Mr. Wright's searing novel of last year, "Native Son" follows the Welles formula of swerving far from the usual patters of production, the set in many scenes, it traces the career of Bigger Thomas, accidental killer and fugitive from justice, from the morning he receives notice of a job as chauffeur for the Daltons to the hour before his death for the accidental strangling of their daughter.

Back from his coastal escapade last February, Welles has turned his mind to the production of "Native Son," with the same thoroughness that has characterized his earlier efforts. Within a few weeks of his arrival in the East, the play was in rehearsal with Canada Lee, former violinist, jockey, prizefight-

er and band leader, who now operates the Harlem tavern known as the Chicken Coop, in the role of Bigger Thomas; Patricia Palmer, newcomer to Broadway, as Mary Dalton, victim of Bigger's unrealized strength, and other fine actors.

Hailed as the most dramatic novel of the season, "Native Son" was not as easily transferable to the stage as might at first have appeared. When Richard Wright, the author, realized the difficulties inherent in a dramatization, he called upon Paul Green, playwright of the Pulitzer Prize winning "Abraham's Bosom," "The House of Connelly" and "Johnny Johnson" for assistance. Together they have wrought a play in several scenes ranging from the Thomas parlor bedroom-kitchen; in a Chicago tenement to the prison death house in which Bigger awaits his inevitable doom.