

ARTS BRIEFING

Lawrence Van Gelder

HIGHLIGHTS

BRITNEY: PITCHING REALITY Taking a page from the playbook of her lipmate **Madonna**, **Britney Spears** is reported to be pitching a reality series that would track her and her dancers on the European leg of her steamy *Onyx Hotel Tour*. The proposed reality show, carrying the tentative title "OnTourage," is described in a Reuters-Hollywood Reporter report as a blend of the MTV show "The Real World" and the 1991 production "Madonna: Truth or Dare." Ms. Spears's European tour begins in London on April 27. The proposed six weeks of shooting would produce six episodes that could be broadcast as early as the summer.

SCREENER PIRACY PLEA The first man arrested for pirating videotapes and DVD's supplied to Academy Award voters has pleaded guilty to copyright infringement in federal court in Los Angeles. The man, **Russell Sprague**, 51, faces up to three years in prison at his sentencing on July 28, The Associated Press reported. He pleaded to one count of infringement for pirating copies of some 200 films, including "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" and "Seabiscuit." Federal agents said in court papers that the investigation began when Hollywood studios traced pirated films to **Carmine Caridi**, 70, an actor who has appeared in "The Godfather: Part II" and the ABC series "N.Y.P.D. Blue." He has not been charged. Concerns about piracy of the so-called screeners sent to academy members prompted the Motion Picture Association of America, representing the major studios, to ban the practice last year, but independent filmmakers protested that the action placed them at a disadvantage. A judge effectively halted the ban, and the dispute has since been settled.

ACTOR'S DRUG DEATH CONFIRMED A heroin overdose killed **Robert Pastorelli**, the actor who played Eldin, the artistic house painter, on the **Candice Bergen** CBS comedy "Murphy Brown," the Los Angeles coroner's office has announced. When the body of Mr. Pastorelli, 49, was found on March 8 in a bathroom in his home in Hollywood Hills, the authorities said the death might have been caused by drugs. David Campbell, a spokesman for the Los Angeles coroner's office, said on Monday that a syringe, spoon and plastic bag containing white powder had been found. The Associated Press reported. In February Mr. Pastorelli finished work with **John Travolta** in the film "Be Cool," a sequel to "Get Shorty."

MORT SAHL IN MANHATTAN

Ten presidents and a dozen elections after he arrived at the Hungry i in San Francisco and just in time for another presidential campaign, the Grammy Award-winning stand-up comic **Mort Sahl**, right, will appear at the Village Theater, at 158 Bleecker Street in Greenwich Village, April 21 through May 2. Addressing the state of the union and the world, he will perform



Associated Press

LOADS OF LOVE Billy Crystal reading from his new children's book "I Already Know I Love You" at a party in the Children's Museum of Manhattan yesterday to mark the book's publication.

at 8 p.m. from Wednesday through Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.



CELEBRATING GIELGUD Today is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great British actor **Sir John Gielgud**, left, who died at 96 in 2000; and celebrations of his life have been in progress throughout the year. One of the most luminous, "Sir John Gielgud:

The Centenary Gala" is to take place on Monday night at the Gielgud Theater on Shaftesbury Avenue in the heart of London's West End. Co-sponsored by the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Royal Shakespeare Company with the Shakespeare Guild of Washington, this tribute will include remarks and vignettes by **Judi Dench**, **Clive Francis**, **Peter Hall**, **David Hare**, **Rosemary Harris**, **Martin Jarvis**, **Barbara Jefford**, **Barbara Leigh-Hunt**, **Michael Pennington**, **Ian Richardson**, **Paul Scofield** and **Donald Sinden**.

SCI-FI NOMINEES Two Americans, two Canadians and a Scot are the finalists for the Hugo Award for the year's top science-fiction novel, Canadian Press reported. The contenders are the Americans **Lois McMaster Bujold** for "Paladin of Souls" and **Dan Simmons** for "Ilium"; the Canadians **Robert J. Sawyer** (last year's winner) for "Humans" and **Robert Charles Wilson** for "Blind Lake," and the Scot **Charles Stross** for "Singularity Sky." The winner will be named on Sept. 5 at the World Science Fiction Convention in Boston.

CANCELLATIONS The mezzo-soprano **Frederica von Stade** and the soprano **Ruth Ann Swenson**

have withdrawn from performances this weekend. A death in the family prompted Ms. von Stade to bow out of scheduled appearances at 8 p.m. Friday and 5 p.m. Sunday with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at Alice Tully Hall. The concert will proceed with an all-instrumental program. Illness has forced Ms. Swenson to cancel her recital in Lincoln Center's "Art of the Song" series at 2 p.m. Sunday at Alice Tully Hall. The performance will not be rescheduled. Information on exchanges or refunds for that event may be obtained by calling (212) 875-5456.

FOOTNOTES

The 10th Avignon/New York Film Festival, presenting screenings of independent films from the United States and France, as well as panel discussions and interviews, will be held from April 19 through 25 at Tribute New York (24 Broadway in Lower Manhattan), the Roger Smith Hotel, the Paris Theater, the American Museum of the Moving Image and the Directors Guild of America Theater. The Web site is www.avignonfilmfest.com, and telephone information is available at (212) 343-2675. . . . **Eiko and Koma**, already the recipients of a MacArthur "genius" Fellowship among other laurels, have been chosen to receive this year's \$35,000 Samuel H. Scripps American Dance Festival Award. The accolade, honoring choreographers for lifetime achievement in modern dance, will be presented by **Joseph V. Melillo**, executive producer at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, on June 27 at a ceremony on the Duke University campus in Durham, N.C.

Sir John Gielgud

The Centenary Gala



Gielgud Theatre

LIME LIGHT

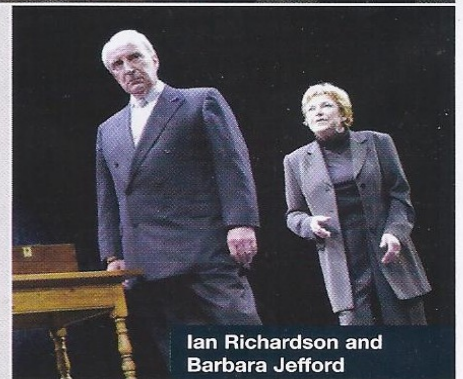
WHEN THE STARS COME OUT TO PLAY



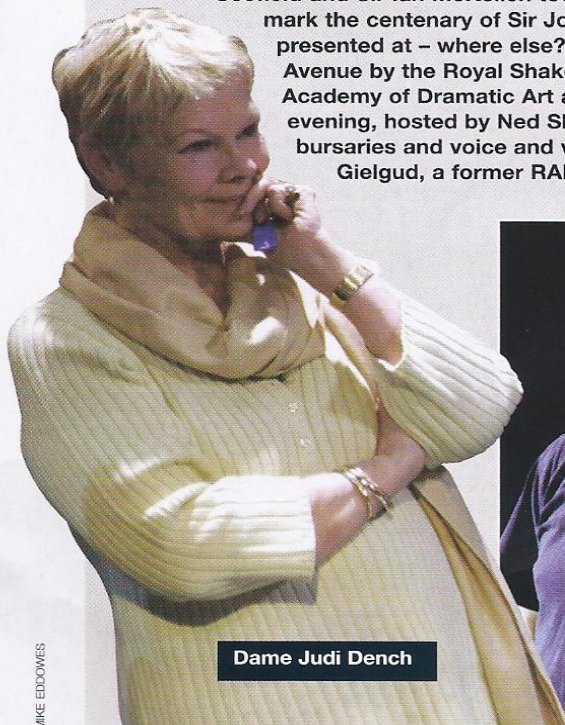
Stars include: Ronald Pickup, Sir Donald Sinden, Barbara Leigh-Hunt, Dame Judi Dench, Rosemary Harris, Clive Francis and Michael Pennington

GIELGUD GALA

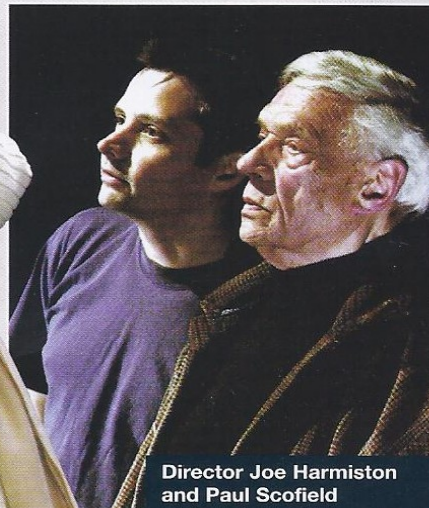
An all-star cast featuring Dame Judi Dench, Ian Richardson, Paul Scofield and Sir Ian McKellen took part in a Gala celebration to mark the centenary of Sir John Gielgud's birth. The Gala was presented at – where else? – the Gielgud Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Shakespeare Guild. The evening, hosted by Ned Sherrin, raised funds for RADA student bursaries and voice and verse training for young actors. Gielgud, a former RADA student, died four years ago.



Ian Richardson and Barbara Jefford



Dame Judi Dench



Director Joe Harmiston and Paul Scofield



Current RADA students rehearse for the Gala

The John Gielgud Centenary Gala

Cast List

Alan Bennett

Barbara Leigh-Hunt

Judi Dench

Ian McKellen

Clive Francis

Michael Pennington

Peter Hall

Ronald Pickup

David Hare

Ian Richardson

Rosemary Harris

Paul Scofield

Martin Jarvis

Donald Sinden

Barbara Jefford

and from RADA: Phil Cheadle, Georgina Rich, Daniel Rigby, Michelle Terry and Kevin Trainor.

The RADA choir: Kezia Burrows, Tom Davey, David Dawson, Msimisi Dlamini, Jamie Doyle, Joe Elwood, Ruth Everett, Joel Fry, Amanda Hale, Tom Hiddleston, Leandra Lawrence, Jeremy Legat, Elizabeth Nestor, Olufunlola Olufunwa, Georgina Rich, Charlie Walker-Wise, Lizzie Winkler, and Andrea Wisborough.

Musical Director and Arranger: Andrew Charity.

Hosted by Ned Sherrin

Directed by Joe Harmston

Devised and produced by John Miller

The plays featured in tonight's performance will include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *As You Like It*, *Forty Years On*, *Henry V*, *Julius Caesar*, *Measure for Measure*, *Richard II*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Best of Friends*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Lady's Not For Burning* and *The Tempest*.

There will be one interval of 15 minutes

Production Credits

Set Designed by	Stephen Brimson Lewis
Lighting Designed by	Paul Pyant
Company Stage Manager	Maggie Mackay
Deputy Stage Manager	Jo Keating
Assistant Stage Manager	Sarah Lee
Sound Operator	Hannah Reymes-Coles
Lighting Programmer	Alex Fox
Wardrobe	Gordon Hughes
Press	Philippa Harland (RSC Press Office 0207 845 0512)

with the assistance of Nicola Chisholm and Stephen Dann from RADA.

There are a large number of people that we would like to thank for this evening, including the performers, the stage crew, the theatre management and staff, the students from RADA, and the contributors to the souvenir programme. Everyone has given an enormous amount of time to prepare for tonight and to raise funds for bursaries for young actors at RADA and for the new Artists' Development Programme at the RSC, and we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you'!

We are immensely grateful to Thelma Holt and Bill Kenwright for their generosity towards this special evening, to Really Useful Theatres for their help and support in letting us use the Gielgud Theatre, to Clive Francis for his wonderful illustrations, to the Mander and Mitchenson Theatre Collection for lending us the photographs of Sir John, and to John Good Holbrook for their help in printing the souvenir programme. We are also grateful to the Garrick Club, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Theatre, and the Theatre Museum for hosting ancillary activities in connection with this event, and to Jonathan Croall, Malcolm Jones, Richard Mangan, Geoffrey Marsh, and others for their kind assistance with these activities.

We hope that tonight's celebrations will initiate further partnerships in support of the work of RADA, the RSC, The Shakespeare Guild and the Sir John Gielgud Charitable Trust.

The Steering Group for the Centenary Gala

Jeremy Adams
John Andrews
Nick Barter
Stephen Browning
Philippa Harland
Joe Harmston
Thelma Holt
Maggie Mackay
John Miller