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'Raisin in the Sun' Film Rights Sold

Columbia Pictures has pur-chised the screen rights to "A Raisin in the Sun," the Lorraine Hansberry hit play at the Ethel Barrymore Theater. David Susskind and Philip Rose will produce the film script which will be written by Miss Hansberry. Columbia is also seeking the services of Sidney Poitier and Claudia McNell, who are starred in the stage version, for the screen reproduction.

The play deals with the fruggles of a Negro family in hicago to achieve middle-class espectability. All the leading tayers are Negroes. duce the film script which will

Lyers are Negroes.

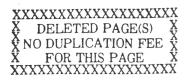
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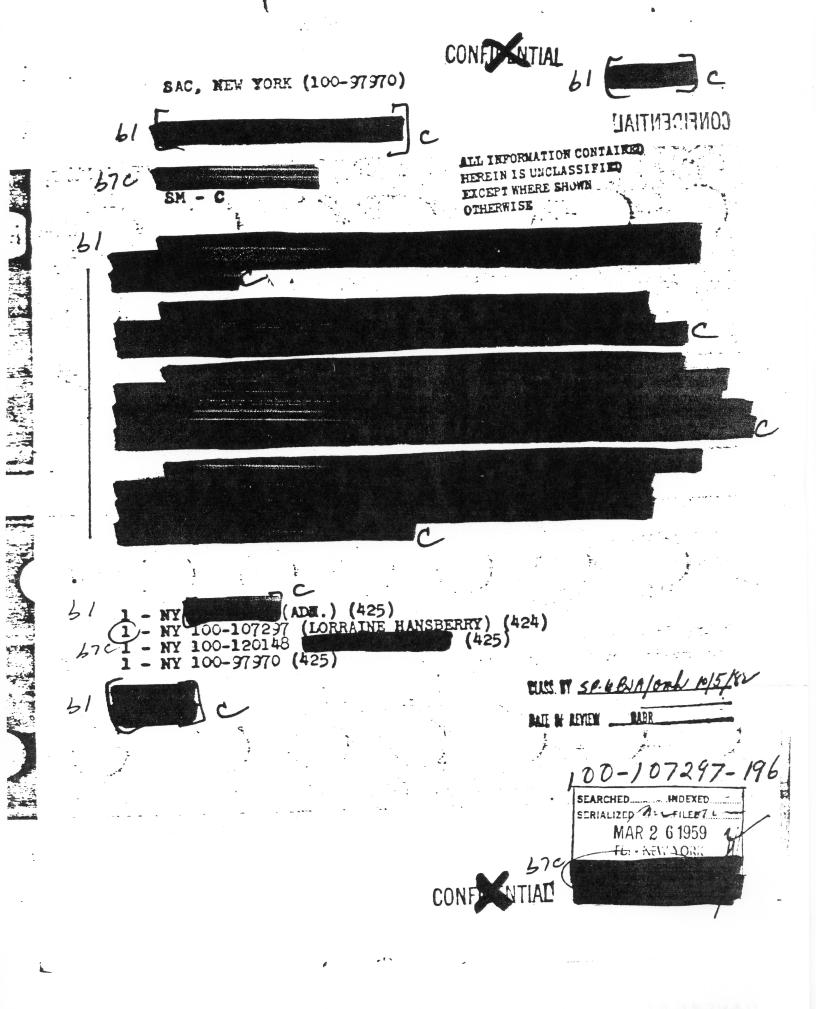


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The Arrival of Lorraine Hansberry

One thing should be made clear immediately about . Raisin in the Sun." Although only the most contemptible radal bigots could help being gratified by the success of an important drama written, directed and played by Negroes, the praise bestowed by the local reviewers on

Negroes, the praise bestowed by the socal reviewers and Lorraine Hansberry's play had most favorable reviews of Miss mothing to do with this gratification. The unanimously enthusing the satisfication of the unanimously enthus is a still enthusiant the satisfication of the satisfica

inight handicap that later audisences will not have to bring to its being praised, not for its positive achievements, but for the positive achievements, but for the pitfalls it eludes. This is simply not so.

Tennessee Williams' "Sweet Bird of Youth," and irrespective of any other critical comparisons, a characteristic Tennessee Williams play delivers a thunderboit it accomplishes. By refusing to the solar niexus that tends to members of the Younger family. to the solar plexus that tends to members of the Younger family, make even some reasonably dy-but, instead, looking at them namic dramas seem remarkably frankly and candidly, with all placid. That the comparatively their frailties showing, Mark quiet "A Raisin in the Sun" still Hansberry pays them the commoved all of us so deeply must pliment of regarding them as

As a matter of fact, the play they are those of omission, and they may well create the impressing the handicap that later audition that handicap that later audition they are those of omission, and they may well create the impressing the handicap that later audition that "A Raisin in the Sun" is being praised not for its post.

stainly be a striking tribute warm-blooded, fallible human bings. And, because her delineared ings. And, because her delinearden of character has such clear-cycl danger that even the companion, her men and well

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ward her—and us—by emerging as people of great innerignity and strength, with the apacity for rising to any crisis. They become both believable and appealing, and their drama takes on power and significance.

The versatility of Miss Hansberry's gift for character drawing is indicated by her two central gures, the family matriarch and her wayward son. Without great skill in the writing, the old woman might have seemed a cliche of sentimentality and the young man a conventional stage weakling. The fact that the roles are so beautifully played by Claudia McNell and Sidney Poitier counts, of course, heavily, but the 28-year-old playwright's ability to see into the human heart with humor and understanding 's evident in both portraits, just as it is, for example, in the delightful characterizations of the scatterbrained daughter and her Nigerian suitor.

There isn't a more enchanting portrayer of humorous and warm hearted grandeur than Miss McNeil, who has all of Ethel Waters' richness of spirit in addition to a quality of her own, and no finer young actor than Mr. Poitier. But, then, every role is splendidly played. Everyone in the cast deserves praise, but I was particularly pleased by the fresh comic charm of Dian Sands as the daughter, the quiet humor of Ivan Lee as the young Nigerian, and the sympathetic directness of Ruby Dee as the troubled wife. And Lloyd Richards' staging places him at one among the important director. "A Raisin in the Sun" is a victory for dramatic integrity.

#### RAISIN IN THE SUN

#### Vivid Drama About A Poor Negro Family

ALTHOUGH the acting in Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun" is wehement, it never seems excessive. Under the direction of Lloyd Richards, the scenes of crisis in the script touch off explosions in the performance But the explosions never give an impression of being arbitrary,

For Miss Hansberry has written a homely play about the day-to-day anxieties of a Negro family on the South Side of Chicago. Some of the troubles are uproariously funny; some of them are harrowing. Since the characters have great capacity for feeling, the emotional range is wide. The nervous, tensely paced performance of Sidney Poitier as the wayward son and the highly wrought performance of Claudia McNeil as the unyielding matriarch have solid footing in the script. Every-thing is of a piece—writing. staging and acting.

72

The title comes from a poem by Langston Hughes—"What happens to a dream deferred/ Does it dry up/Like a raisin in the sun?" Literally, the plot of Miss Hansberry's drama revolves around \$10,000 that the mother receives from the life insurance of her dead husband. The son, who is tired of working as a chauffeur, wants to invest it in a liquor store and become a big shot in the community. The mother wants to buy a house for herself and her fam-By. Ever since she was married she has dreamed of escaping from their grubby tenement.

What happens to the \$10,000 supplies the dynamic of the frama. Since "A Raisin in the frama of the play, the audinice cannot be indifferent to be solution. But Miss Hanstry has not written a melotrama or a thesis-play or a forality. She has rendered a ractical accounting of the life less commonplace, "I have been commonplace," I have been commonplace, "I have been commonplace," I have been commonplace, "I have been commonplace," I have been commonplace, "I have been common c

Pungent Notes For Mis. Hansberry has man aged to express a persons opinion about many engrossing topics. The belligerent racissi of the daughter who is attending college, her provincial ignorance of Africa, her confusion of Liberia and Nigeria, the amused maturity of a college student who comes from Africa. the sophimoric sophistication er an American college student-these are pungent notes by the way set down by Miss Hansberry out of experience, observation and a sense of comedy.

When the mother buys a house in a white neighborhood. "A 'Raisin in the Sun" touches on the inflammatory topic of race relations. Miss Hansberry faces the issue frankly, giving the spokesman for the white people as much dignity as his humiliating situation affords. But she argues no causes. Note that she resolves the situation not in terms of social justice but in terms of the pride of a family that has ethical standards. Not the least remarkable aspect of "A Raisin in the Sun" is the unvarying humanity of the author's point of view. Although Miss Hansberry is aware of the big social and political issues, she has sufficient independence of mind to concen-, trate on the everyday problems of a family. She has succeeded in confining herself to what she Wants to sav.

If she is lucky in her actors, they are lucky in their author. Her play gives them the opportunity to stage a rousing performance that is supported by the simple truths of the story. Apart from Mr. Poitier's searching performance and Miss Mc-Neil's characterization of a worn woman with a noble spirit. the cast includes other excellent actors-notably Diana Sands as the acrimonious daughter who knows all the slogans but very little about life. Altogether, "A Raisin in the Sun' is a lively and illuminating drama about mople of great emotions visality.

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#### RAISIN IN THE SUN' SOUGHT FOR FILM

Susskind to Be Co-Producer
of Hit Play for Columbia—
Patricia Crest Gets Role

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., March 21—Columbia Pictures an nounced today the purchase of screen rights to the hit Broadway play, "A Raisin in the Bun," by Lorraine Hansberry, "According to sources in New York, the purchase price for the story of a Negro family in the South Side of Chicago was \$300,000.

the South Side of Chicago as \$300,000.

David Susskind, who has an agreement with Columbia to nake one picture a year for lour years, will supervise the liming in association with Philip Rose, co-producer of the Broadway version. Filming is alated to begin in June, 1960.

Miss Hansberry will adapt

Miss Hansberry will adapt
Miss Hansberry will adapt
her play for the screen. The
release date depends on
release for the run of the play
an Broadway.

Negotiations are under vay Negotiations are under vay for Bidney Potier and Claudia McNeil to re-create their stage roles in the film. Mr. Politier portrays a restless young man who dreams of success and viss McNeil enacts the roll of its mother who wants her full-ren to maintain the other papers.

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Raisin in the Sun," a play and "Seven Deadly Sins about Chicago Negroes, is the best of the season, so far as plurality of Drama Critics circle members is concerned for George Dillon" took ix, with ne each fer "The Power and the Algonquin Hotel late Tuesday, Supporting it were repreday. Supporting it were repreday. day. Supporting it were refre-sentatives of Cae, United Pleas International, New Yorker, Saturday Review, New Leader and Morning Telegram, This approval was not shared by exitics of the seven daily news

Five votes each went for Sweet Bird of Youth," by Tennessee Williams, and "J. B.," by Archibald MacLeish. For the former: World-Telegram and Sun, Herald Tribune, Fournal-American, Women's Wear Dally and Newhouse Newspapers. For the latter: Journal of Commerce, Times, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek and Daily News, Sup-porting Eugene O'Neill's Touch of the Poet" were the net, Associated Press and Best musical was "La Prime & Ma Tante," favored by 12.

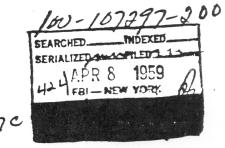
lower Drum Song" received

One member abstained.

Favored foreign play Friedrich Duerrenmatt's

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#### Her Dream Came True Lorraine Hansberry

L ORRAINE HANSBERRY began by wanting to be a painter. She was a "lousy painter," in her own words. She then turned to writing. That she is not a "lousy" writer is attested to by the fact that Tuesday she won the New York Drama Critics Circle award for the best American play of the sea-woman son. There are a number of "not

in the onlys" involved in her triumph. Not News only is she just 28 years old; not only is she a Negro; not only is she the first Negro woman ever to

have a play on Broadway, let alone to win an award; but also "A Raisin in the Sun" was her first produced play.

Miss Hansberry, who in her domestic life is Mrs. Robert Nemiroff, wife of a music publisher and song writer, is voluble, energetic, pretty and small. She does not lack for ideas: before "A Raisin in the Sun" she had written three other plays, all unfinished and unproduced, short stories and fragments of stories and a plays. A kind of literary limbering up.



Not a "Negro play," but one about people who happen to be Negroes.

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She did have an audience for her work—her husband and their friends. One evening after seeing a play, she told her husband that ahe was going to "write a social drama about Negroes that will be good art." She did, after writing a four-hour effort that was really two plays. Revision, excision and concision resulted in "A Raisin in the Bun."

Miss Hansberry was born in Chicago, the daughter of a well-to-do real-estate man. She studied painting at the Chicago Art Institute and the University of Wisconsin, and there was a painting period

in Guadalajara, Mexico.

She came to New York in 1950 and was married in 1953. For a few years after her marriage she worked at various jobs—salesgirl, cashier, producer's helper—and, meantime, kept writing. In 1954 she turned to plays.

Her literary god is Bean

Her literary god is Bean O'Casey, the Irish playwright, whom, she says, "establishes the nobility of man by showing him in all his marvelous complexity."

Or Does It Explode?"

Miss Hansberry, whose play is about Negroes, is exasperated by producers who think of plays with Negro characters as "Negro plays." Her play, she says, is about believable, many-sided people who happen to be Negroes. It was produced by two men who had never produced a play before—Philip Rose and David J. Cogan.

Her play, she says, is concerned with dreams, the dreams that all persons have, the dreams that are problems. I But she believes that "science

will bring more rewards for our generation than mysticism."

The title of her play comes from a poem by Langston Hughes called "Harlem." The poem asks: "What happens to a dream deferred:/ Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun/ Does it fester like a sore and then run • • • • Or does it explode?"

Miss Hansberry, whose dreams have neither dried up nor festered nor exploded, lives in Bleecker Street, Greenwich Village, with her husband and a dog named Spice. They live in a walk-up apartment, lined with books. Miss Hansberry likes to ski, to go to the theatre, to see movies. She likes to play table tennis and would like, and is planning, to write more plays and perhaps some opera libratti.

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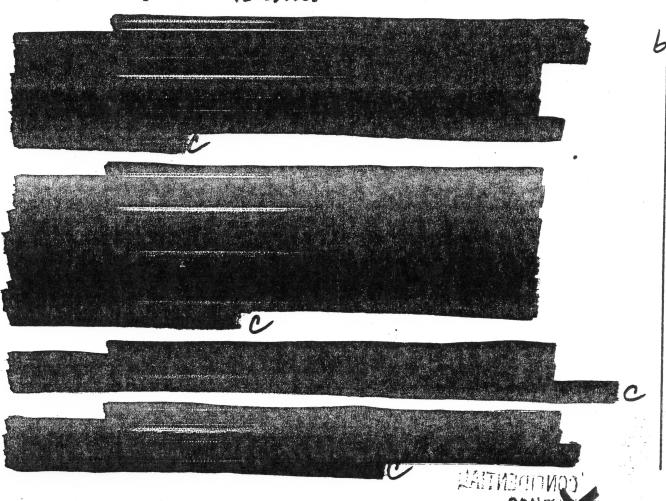
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"The New York Times", late city edition for 4/1/19, contains an article entitled "falsin In The Sun' Bodgit For Film". This article states Columbia Pictures announced the purchase of acreen rights to the hit Broadway play "A Raisin In The Sum" by LORKAINE HANSHERRY. The article states sources in New York (not identified) massed the purchase price as \$300,000.



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## Eest-Play Prize Won By a Negro Girl, 28

#### Drama Critics Pick 'Raisin in Sun' By Lorraine Hansberry for Award

By Stuart W. Little V-eight-year-old Negro play- matt, best play by a foreign Lorraine Hansberry, a twenright, won the drama critics author and the French revue ward for best American play the season yesterday with best musical. er first play, "A Raisin in the un." She won out against yesterday sch top American playwriting Hansberry was alone with her gene O'Neill.

Liss Hansberry's play about life of a Negro family on cago's South Side is the & by a Negro to win a Drama tics Circle award. The voting a close. "A Raisin in the m" gained six votes. Tied for Sweet Bird of Youth" by Wilsms and "JB" by MacLeish. eceived three votes.

The critics, at their annual wards meeting at the Hotel

Algonquin, also voted "The Visit," by Friedrich Duerren-"La Plume de Ma Tante" as

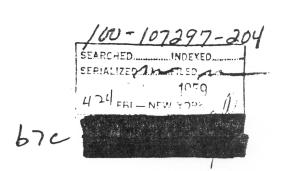
When she heard the news afternoon. empetition as Tennessee Wil-dog Spice in her small thirdams, Archibald MacLeish and floor walk-up apartment at 337 Bleecker St. Until late in the afternoon she was unable to locate her husband, Robert Nemiroff, to give him the news.

"It's Beautiful"

"It's a little hard to digest," Miss Hansberry said of her triumph. "We felt we were doing cond at five votes each were something good and we felt we were doing something important for the theater. Whether we Neill's "A Touch of the Poet" would have any recognition was another question. Now that it's happened, it's beautiful."

Miss Hansberry said her success, while perhaps increasing the demands upon her time, would not interfere with her schedule of work. That, she said, was laid out even before "A Raisin in the Sun" opened March 11 at the Barrymore Thister. She judged that it would be "a long time" before her next play is ready—p rhaps is your or two.

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A Raisin in the sun was reliuced by Philip Rose and line cted by Lloyd Richards with the leading roles of son and incider played by Sidney Poitier and Claudia McNeil.

The critics voting in favor of "A Raisin in the Sun" were: Jack Gaver of United Press International; Whitney Bolpn of "The Morning Telegraph" Kenneth Tynan of "The New Yorker; Henry Hewes of "The Saturday Review"; Emory Lewis of "Cuel" and Joseph T. Shipley of "The New Leader."

of "Cue" and Joseph 1. Simpley of "The New Leader."

Voting for "Sweet Bird of Youth" were Walter Kerr of the, New York Herald Tribune; John McClain of "The Journal-! American"; Frank Aston of "The World - Telegram and Sun"; Thomas R. Dash of "Wonnen's Wear Daily," and Ward Morehouse of the S. I. Newhouse newspapers

Newhouse newspapers.
Voting for "J.B." were Brooks
Atkinson of "The New York
Times"; John Chapman of
"The Daily News"; Richard
Cooke of "The Wall Street
Journal"; Ethel Colby of "The
Journal of Commerce" and
T. H. Wenning of "Newsweek"

T. H. Wenning of "Newsweek."
Voting for "A Touch of the
Poet" were Robert Coleman of
"The Daily Mirror"; Richard
Watts jr. of "The New York,
Post." and Mark Barron of The
Associated Press.

On Foreign Play

The voting for best foreign play was as follows: ten votes for "The Visit," which opened with the Lunts last May and closed in November; six votes for "Epitaph for George Dillon," the British play by John Osborne and Anthony Creighton which had two openings on Broadway this season; one vote for "The Power and the Glory," one vote for "Rashomon" and one abstention.

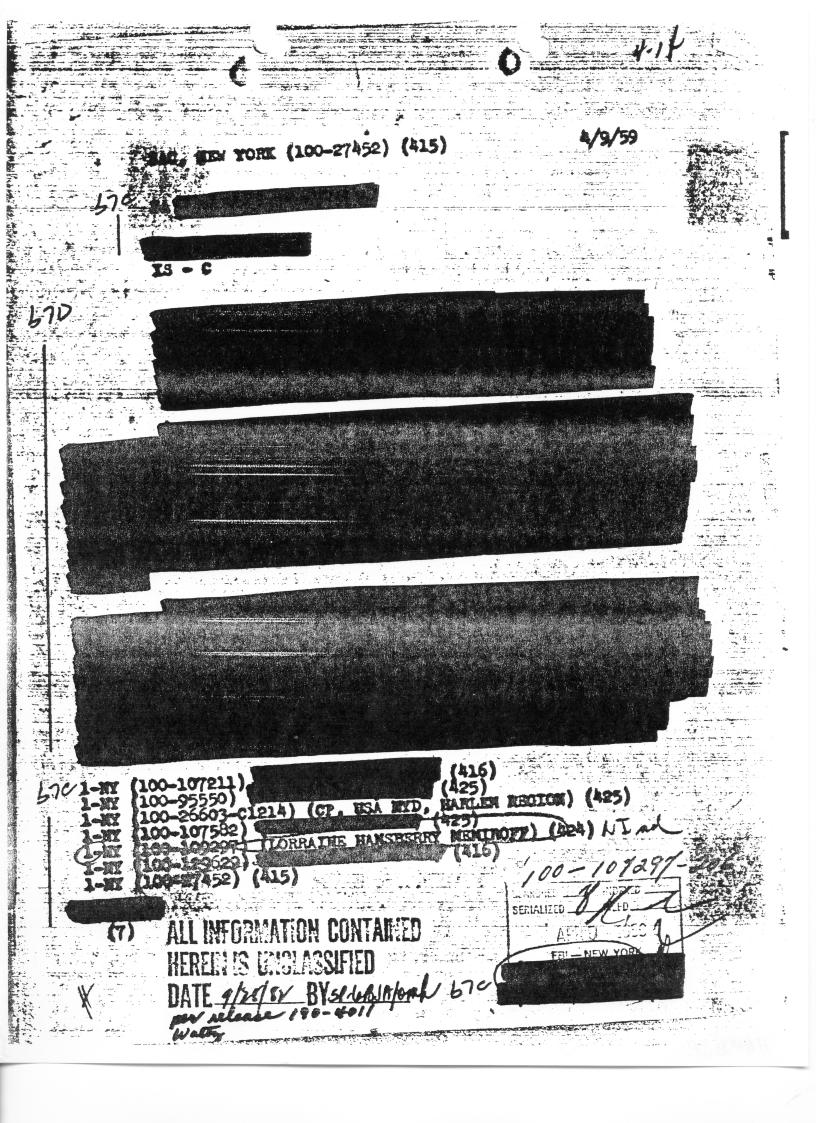
The voting for best musical was as follows: twelve votes for "La Plume de Ma Tante," the all-French musical revue by! Robert Dhery; three votes for "Redhead," two votes for "Flower Drum Song," one vote for "The Seven Deadly Sins" and one abstention.

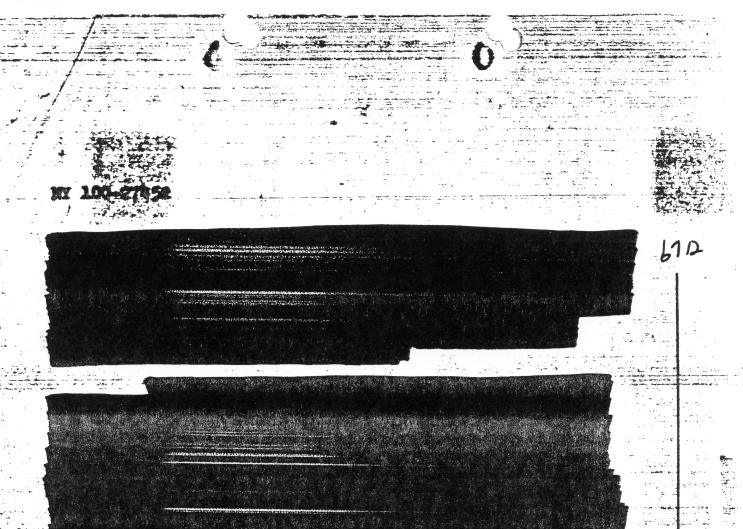
Presiding at the awards meeting was Mr. McClain, president of the Drama Critics Circle.



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#### THEATRE SPOTLIGHT

# 'Raisin' Makes A Capital Mark

By JIM O'CONNOR

N ONLY FIVE AND A HALF WEEKS after its Broadway opening, "A Raisin in the Sun"—a first piny by an unknown author, sponsored by a new producer, staged by an unheralded director, starring motion picture actor in his first stage role—his recouped its entire capitalisation of \$100,000, it was reported today.

Pinancial statement of the Philip Rose-David J. Cogan production shows the sousi investment was indemnified as of last Saturday night.

This is an amazingly brief period—even for a New York Drama Critics Circle Award winner. No wonder the 147 investors in the "Ralsin" are happy today.

Bajis for the quick recouping, tim advised, was the seven feel - pre-Broadway tour. Ithough the play specied to startically no advance sale in New Haven, Philadelphia and Chicago, business built to sapacity in each instance giving the show a healthy profit for its road engagements.

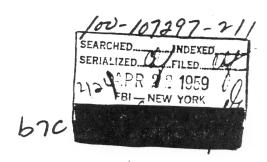
This, too, is a rare occurrence for a play these days.

Here are the credits for "A Raisin in the Sun":

Author, Lorraine Hansberry. roducers, Phil Rose and Dave Cogan. Director, Lloyd Richards. Star, Sidney Poiser. Rose, who isunched his proueing career with this play. idds that \$120,000 more will corue to the production from ts 40 per cent of the \$300,000 ale of the play to Columbia sctures. Additional revenue ill come from the foreign ductions for which there eady is a great demand. and, oh, yes!—"A Raisin in Sun" continue to play to ndees at the Barrymore

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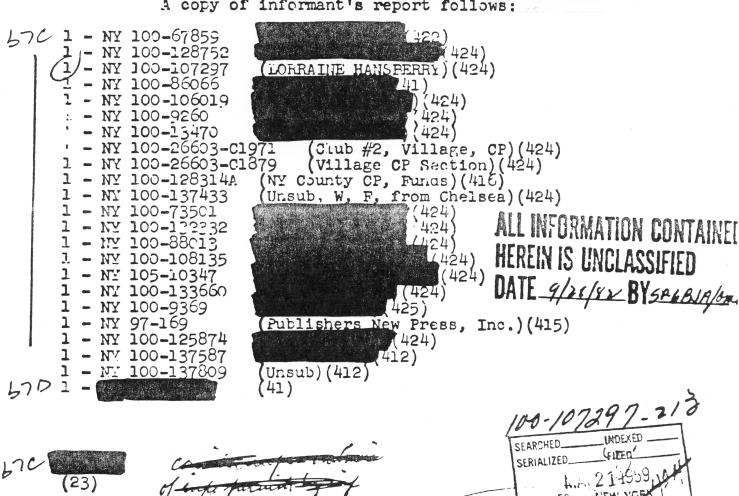




3	Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the follow indicated, explain this deletion.	ing statements, where
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	Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):	
X	For your information: Reference made to subject of repage	equest on
$\boxtimes$	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  NY 100-107297-212	



OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SAC, NEW YORK (41) DATE 5/21/59 **ム**フ C FROM SA (41) ムフロ SUBJECT: INFORMATION FROM 67C 670 157C 67P A copy of informant's report follows: 57C - NY 100-67859 - NY 100-128752 NY 100-107297 LORRAINE HANSBERRY) (424) (424) 100-86066 NY NY 100-106019 - NY 100-9260 424) - NY 100-13470



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		Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):	
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	X	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  NY 100-107297-213 pages 2-5	

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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2	Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  These pages were previously processed in Chicago  file 100-26009-23 (newspaper clipping)
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		This page was previously processed in FBI Headquarters file 100-393031-NR 6-13-59 (newspaper clipping)
		For your information:
•	×	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  NY 100-107297-216

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A cound the Dials

By EAY CARDELLA

Dore Schary has signed Lorraine Hansberry, whose thesisin in the Sun is a current broadway hit, to pen an original script for his NBC Civil War specials. Schary's committed to produce five scripts for teeveeing in '61. ABC-Radio veepee Edward De-Gray due to be promoted soon. DATIT ESUS

FOR THE PROMISES

11 JUN 1959

PARTITION

PROMISES

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42 UN 1 1 1959

43 4 FBI - NEW YORK



Lorraine Hansberry, author of Broadway's prize winning "Raigin in the Sun," has been assigned to write the first on NBC's series of Civil War centennial dramas to be presented of home screens in 1961. Dore Schary, the Hollywood and Broadway product, arranged the assignment for Miss Hansberry before leaving for Hollywood where he is undergoing a minor operation...

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# VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION ON SECURITY INDEX CARD

MEMORANDUM RT: LORRAINE V. HANSPARRY WENTROFF, alex 100-107297
The following is the most recent place of employment, employment address, and residence address of the above subject as contained on the subject's Security Index Card.
Residence: .337 Bleecker Street, New York, New York
Employment: Free Isnce Writer from Residence
Address:
Key Facility  Yes X No Detcom  Security Flash  Yes X No Photo  Yes No No Photo Yes No No Photo Yes No
It is requested that the place of employment, address of employment, residence address of the subject, as well as the accuracy of the priority tabbing, be verified and the proper notations be made below. The absence of a photograph and posting of a Security Flash should be noted and efforts made to secure a photograph and determine the existence of a criminal record.  A physical description based on personal observation of the subject appears in serial
Residence: Method of Verification:  The particular of control of the first of the f
Neighborhood Source: Date: Verified by SA:
Employment: Address: Key Facility: Yes No Date Checked: Geographical Reference Number:
Tab Detcom: Yes No Method of Vertification: Pretific all to pulset  Employment Source:
Date: Verified by SA:
FD-122 should be submitted to Bureau: Yes No
Subject Meets SI Criteria  Does Not Meet SI Criteria  570
Agents Initial Serialized FILED SERIALIZED FILED
HEREIN S UNGLASSIFIED  JUL 20 1959  FBI - NEW YORK

CONFUENTIAL 7/31/59 BAC, NEW YORK (100-23825) ALL INFORMATION FOR HEREIN IS UNCHASE? EXCELL WHILE CHOWN OTHERWISE . . . CLAUDIA McNEIL is presently staring in the play, "A Rasin In The Sun", now showing on Broadway. This play was written by LORRAINE HANSBERRY. BLIS OF SPABLE COMPANY BATE OF REVIEW JUL 3 1 1959

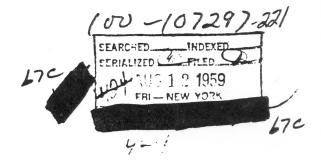
Russians at 'Raisin in Sun'
Eighteen representatives of
the performing arts from the Soviet Union attended last night's
performance of "A Raisin in the
Sun" at the Ethel Barrymere
Theatre. The group included
directors of various Moscow
theatres.

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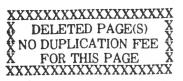
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	file 100-393031-40'
	For your information:
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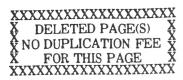
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OFFICE MEMORANDUM . UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

AUG 1 4 1955

TO

SAC, NEW YORK

DATE:

L7 PROM

大公田 のは大山

SUPERVISOR, #42

SUBJECT:

SECURITY INDEX TABULATION

In accordance with Bureau instructions, a review has been made of Security Index cases to tabulate the occupation of the subject and the product produced by the employer. The information obtained on stapled Photostat below was furnished to the Bureau by letter dated 8/3/59.



This Photostat is being placed in the file for ready reference.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/14/22 BY 51-46) 16/2012

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Mary de Arch Historica Andrew	Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.
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	For your information:
×	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  NY 100-107297-227

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OFFICE MEMORANDUN UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DATE: 8/27/59 K(U) SAC, NEW YORK (100479725) TO b | FROM ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNLE . JOLEAND EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN SUBJECT CAMP WINGDALE OTHERWISE . . IS-C EUS. ET SA-10 Roll fomb 100-107297-228 SERVILLE 2003 APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP (S) OF PLANE 424



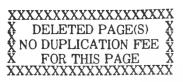
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×	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  NY 100-107297-228 pages 2 and 3

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	For your information:
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	For your information:
. 🛚	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  NY 100-107297- 230



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OFFICE MEMORANDUM UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO : SAC, Omaha (100-6306) Date: February 15, 1960 SAC, Milwaukee (100-12874) FROM ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HERETN 13 U LL ISIFIED L1C SUBJECT: EXCEPT WILL SHOWN OTHERWISE ELLSS. BY 396 BJR/om 00 - Omaha BATE OF REVIEW \_\_\_\_ DAD! On January 13, 1950, an anonymous source, who has access to material in the possession of furnished copies of correspondence during the summer and fall of 1959 to

from ( at Camp Wingdale during the summer of 1959 and at the University of Iowa during the fall of 1959. These photostats are described as follows and will be identified by the items number on the fact of this letter designating enclosures for appropriate Item 1: 3-page letter dated June 24th to from 2-page letter undated on Wingdale Camp stationery to Item 2: from 2-page typed message to undated and uncaptioned Item 3: from with handwritten addendum by which may have been a supplement to item 2. Item 4: 2-page typewritten letter datelined "Monday" to from Item 5: 3-page undated letter to handwriting addendum from 4 - Omaha (Encls. - 5, items 1,2,3,4,5)(RM) (1 - University of Iowa Socialist Club) (Engl (with supplement described on this copy) 100-new)(Encls. - 2, items 1,3 Hew York (RM) 100-127489)(Encls - 5, items 1,2,3,45) camp wingdale, 100 LORRAINE HANSBERRY (Encls. - 5, "Tems 1,4) (1 - 100-10 (Encls - 2, ltems 1,4) (1 - (Encl. - 1, item 2) (1 - Veterans of Abraham Lincoln Brigade) (Encl. - 1, item 4) 2 - Milwaukee (100-12874) (Encls. - 5, items 1-5) (1 - 100-12960, (12)