

Rod Steiger: Things are looking up

Good news for fans of actor Rod Steiger

First child is due early next year

By ROBIN ADAMS SLOAN
Q. We keep hearing bad news about veteran actor Rod Steiger. Is he still in such terrible shape?

A. It's true that most of what I've been hearing about Rod, who has starred in more than 15 movies and was so great in "On the Waterfront," is downbeat. Yes, he's managed to beat broken marriages, a heart condition and long-standing psychological depression. Steiger's medical report is good at the current time. The great and latest news is that the 67-year-old Steiger and his 33-year-old wife, Paula, expect their first child early next year. Not only that, seems Rod's career is picking up with a new film, "The Magician," coming up.

Q. We hear that Cindy Crawford is tired of being a fashion model and is ready to give it up. Can that be true?

A. Surprisingly, it is. Cindy, at the ripe age of 26, says she's getting out of the modeling business and giving her all to TV. Cindy's had big success with her "House of Style" interview show on MTV, making her the darling of the cable channel in terms of overall popularity. She now talks of becoming the next Diane Sawyer — and even of evolving over time into a Barbara Walters. Cindy is now skipping some high-paying fashion runway assignments in favor of the tube. Her many male fans hope, however, whatever Cindy's ambitions, she continues posing for those sexy pin-up calendars.

Q. Roseanne Arnold had a birthday recently. How old is she and what presents did she get? — A.D.
A. Roseanne recently turned the big 40. Her husband, Tom Arnold, presented his wife with a necklace, bracelets, ring and earrings — all studded with dia-

The gossip column

monds and emeralds. Roseanne is currently taping the 11th segment of her fabulously successful "Roseanne" series. Tom, meanwhile, is busy making episodes of his new TV series, "Jackie Thomas," which began Dec. 1. Her hit series made his untried series possible — no wonder he's grateful.

Call it unique: Looking for a Christmas gift for that hard-to-please friend? How about soundtrack music from the films — of would you believe — Steven Seagal? Yes, that's right, you can get excerpts from the scores of "Hard to Kill," "Above the Law" and "Out for Justice." If you want to wait for next year, I'm sure you'll be able to get the updated edition with "Under Siege" thrown in as well. Decisions, decisions.

Q. Former President Reagan and President-elect Bill Clinton met after the election. You're the one to ask how they got along and any other tidbits. — H.H.

A. They got along extremely well. It's no secret that Nancy and Ronald Reagan were never impressed with the Bush presidency. Clinton made it clear he appreciated having access to the popular former president and planned to see him again.

Reagan advised Clinton to make full use of Camp David, the presidential retreat, as it's the only place he can have complete privacy. Clinton seemed delighted when Reagan gave him a gift of red, white and blue jelly beans. The former president joked that jelly beans were what kept him from becoming a cigarette addict during his presidential years.

Got a question? Write to Robin Adams Sloan in care of the Staten Island Advance, 950 Fingerboard Rd., Staten Island N.Y. 10305.

Robin Adams Sloan's gossip column appears Monday and Wednesday on the entertainment pages.

'Mysteries' examines life and art

Runs through Jan. 3 at Joyce Theater

By MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

'Tis the season of Somalia, Bosnia and Red Hook, where an exemplary, much beloved school principal was gunned down last week.

So this is the season of hope, is it? Just exactly where is this hope? You could look for it in a place of worship. Stay away from the streets and the news. You might also try the theater. In that case, go immediately to the Joyce where David Gordon's "The Mysteries And What's So Funny" is playing through Jan. 3.

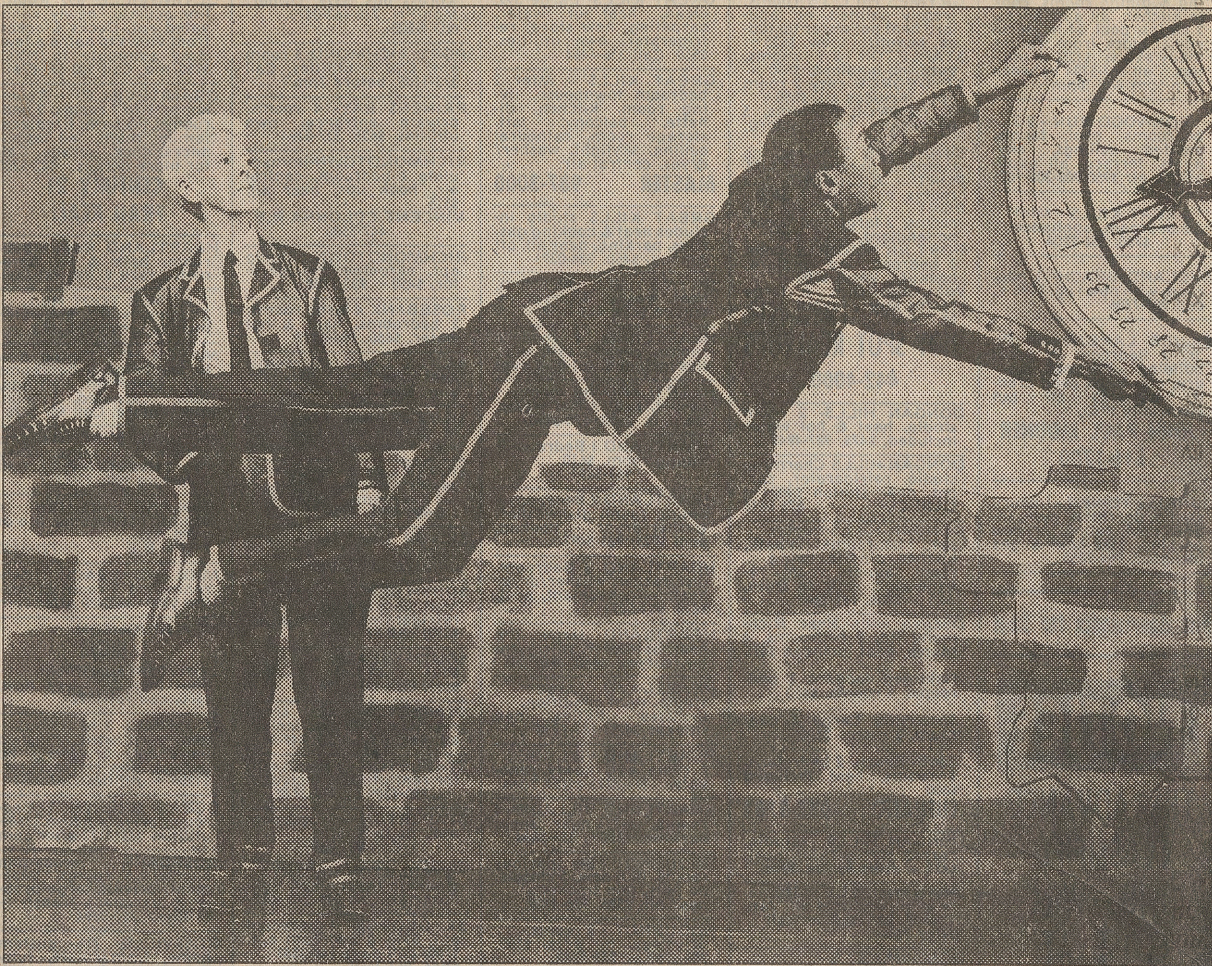
This 90-minute collaboration (text and direction by Gordon, music by Philip Glass and decor and costumes by Red Grooms) played Lincoln Center's Serious Fun! festival in Alice Tully Hall the summer before last. It's warmer and more intimate in the much smaller Joyce.

"The Mysteries And What's So Funny" is a precisely orchestrated play-on-a-play that compares life stories that could hardly be more different, or so it appears at first. On one side, there's the art-ridden DaDa iconoclast Marcel Duchamp, of the Mona Lisa-with-a-moustache fame, "Nude Descending a Staircase" and the ready-mades (ordinary objects, like urinals, that he signed and exhibited, with consummate mischievousness, as art).

What possible connections could be made between his blithe and arty existence and the absolutely artless lives of Sam and Rose, an aged, working-class Brooklyn couple married 50 years and now annoyed by failing health? And what could link Duchamp with Mr. and Mrs. Him, a likable but yuppieish contemporary couple.

The answer, of course, is plenty. Most important of all, the convergence of characters gives the 56-year-old Gordon, best known as a choreographer, the opportunity for some eloquent and concise ruminations about life, art, uncertainties and aging. And the hope is among them.

As an artist, Gordon is attracted to Duchamp's crystalline convictions. "I think a picture dies after 10 years," Duchamp says. "Then it becomes History of Art." But he's drawn as well to the



Valda Setterfield and Dean Moss in a scene from "The Mysteries And What's So Funny?" at the Joyce Theater in Manhattan.

Off-Broadway

homier history of Sam and Rose, which is relived on stage in compact vignettes.

In one of the most touching moments, creaky, befuddled Sam takes an antihistamine and it momentarily clears his mind. "I love you. I remember how I loved you" he says to his old, heavyset wife. "What?" she hollers, being hard of hearing. "He's making love to you!" comes the answer from the other characters, acting as chorus.

Looking back, Sam (endearingly played by Jerry Matz) reveals a regret: Too much time working and too little for his loved ones. "I became the man I needed to be," he offers. The explanation doesn't quite soothe him — or us.

Thirteen excellent performers take multiple roles in the piece, which balances its enquiry into the Big Questions — how to conduct your life, what to do with it, how to make art or not — with humor.

Tisha Roth (as Mrs. Him) clunks about the stage in oversized, un-

suitable box-like shoes in a sight gag so innocent, it is hilarious. And what of Duchamp and Mr. Him debating Madonna's predilection for showing off her unmentionables.

Rose and Sam are Gordon's kin, presumably, and their history is related. Like just about everyone's, it is perfectly ordinary and extraordinary at the same time. Gordon's method of storytelling springs from his long and brilliant career as a choreographer. An original member of the now-legendary Judson Church gang, Gordon's dances used spoken-word text and ordinary movement, both radical ideas 25 years ago.

About six years ago, he set a work on the Island-based Clive Thompson Dance Company, in which a large empty picture frame, manipulated by four dancers, became a stand-in for a fifth performer.

Empty frames (designed by Grooms) re-appear in "The Mysteries," but they're put to a different use. Characters brandish them, creating instant, temporary ready-mades everywhere. Life is surely a random, disjointed ex-

perience. Art — maybe — imposes some order, and certainly Gordon does. "The Mysteries," full of change and movement, never seems rushed and never lacks clarity.

Philip Glass's sparkling score for solo piano, played by Alan Thompson, cues the rhythm of the play and manages to be lovely and effective. Grooms's boisterous decor (dominated by an enormous mustachioed Mona Lisa backdrop), goofy set pieces and costumes are admirably crafty. They ambush the elegance of all the other elements of the production and magnify them, simultaneously.

The original cast is back. Gordon's wife, dancer and performer Valda Setterfield impersonates Duchamp with contagious grace. Alice Playten, an actress with a dozen voices at her disposal, plays old ladies and new babies and persona in between. Lola Pashalinsky's Rose was a little too fervent 18 months ago. She's less so now, and much better.

THE MYSTERIES AND WHAT'S SO FUNNY?, at the Joyce Theater, Eighth Avenue and 19th Street, Manhattan, through Jan. 3. Tickets are \$28. Phone 212 242-0800.

Louise Mandrell is country's Paula Abdul

Versatile performer can do it all

By JOE EDWARDS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Louise Mandrell drinks vitamin-fortified juices before shows to give her energy. She also avoids eating for six hours before the curtain rises so she doesn't get lethargic come showtime.

"It's like a jogger getting ready for a run," Mandrell said.

So the doughnut she ate during a recent interview in her palatial lakeside home seemed a bit misplaced.

What's not misplaced, however, is her solidified standing in the formidable lineup of Mandrell talent.

Sister Barbara Mandrell has always been regarded as the wholesome superstar, the leader. Sister

Irlene, who portrays a dippy telephone operator on "Hee Haw," is the comedic one.

Louise Mandrell performs periodically in a new 4,000-seat theater in the country music hotbed of Branson, Mo. When not there, she's entertaining across America in a high-energy family show with glitz and flash.

Her shows have prompted some to call her a country Paula Abdul.

"I love her but I'd never put myself in her category," Mandrell said. "She's an unbelievable dancer."

The 38-year-old Mandrell has performed onstage since her teenage years when she worked on the Grand Ole Opry as a backup singer and played bass guitar in sister Barbara's band.



Louise Mandrell

She has toured and recorded with Merle Haggard and did six

albums of her own for RCA. She once sang a duet with rocker Eric Carmen, "As Long as We've Got Each Other."

She and her sisters were stars on the variety show "Barbara Mandrell and the Mandrell Sisters" on NBC from 1980 to 1982. The program has been in reruns recently on cable TV's The Nashville Network.

Elsewhere on television, Mandrell has run the gamut from "The Tonight Show" to "Another World" to "Hee Haw" to shampoo commercials.

The breakthrough was appearing with her sisters on network TV when country music was just beginning to reach the mass appeal it now enjoys.

"If I'd had an audition, I wouldn't have made the show," she recalled. "But I was Barbara's sister, and I was perfect for the part."

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Staten Island Advance
STATEN ISLAND'S NEWSPAPER

Movie times

Movie times are provided by the theaters and subject to last minute changes.

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (G) Amboy One — 7:30, 9:20.

A FEW GOOD MEN (R) Amboy Two — 7, 9:30.

HOME ALONE 2 (PG) Hyland Cinema One — 7:30, 9:40.

Staten Island **	
West Shore Exp. • Victory Blvd. 983 9600	
A FEW GOOD MEN (R)	12:30-5:45-8:35
HOME ALONE 2 (PG)	12:15-2:55-5:45-8:30
ALADDIN (G)	12:20-4:05-6:05-8:05-10:05
A FEW GOOD MEN (R)	1:00-3:50-6:45-9:30
FOREVER YOUNG (PG)	12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35
TOYS (PG-13)	1:30-4:15-7:40
LEAP OF FAITH (PG-13)	12:30-2:55-5:20-7:40-10
THE BODYGUARD (R)	1:30-4:15-7:40
DRACULA (R)	7:00-9:45
HOME ALONE 2 (PG)	1:45-4:25
DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN (R)	12:20-5:00-7:30-10

\$3.75 Matinee (except holidays) Mon - Fri Shows begin 8:00PM Sat. First show only

ALADDIN (G) Hyland Cinema Two — 7:30, 9:20.

A FEW GOOD MEN (R) Movies at Staten Island I — 12, 2:50, 5:45, 8:35.

HOME ALONE 2 (PG) Movies at Staten Island II — 12:15, 2:55, 5:45, 8:30.

ALADDIN (G) Movies at Staten Island III — 12, 2:05, 4:05, 6:05, 8:05, 10:05.

A FEW GOOD MEN (R) Movies at Staten Island IV — 1, 3:50, 6:45, 9:30.

FOREVER YOUNG (PG) Movies at Staten Island V — 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35.

TOYS (PG-13) Movies at Staten Island VI — 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:40.

LEAP OF FAITH (PG-13) Movies at Staten Island VII — 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:40, 10.

THE BODYGUARD (R) Movies at Staten Island VIII — 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:40.

HOME ALONE 2 (PG) Movies at Staten Island IX — 1:45, 4:25, 7, 9:45.

THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN (R) Movies at Staten Island X — 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10.

NEW JERSEY

LEAP OF FAITH (PG-13) Amboy Multiplex I — 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 7, 9:20.

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HYLAND CINEMA

MATINEES EVERY WED. AT 1:30 PM

1) HOME ALONE 2

2) ALADDIN

AMBOY THEATRE

1) MUPPETS' CHRISTMAS CAROL

2) A FEW GOOD MEN

3) ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

TOYS (PG-13) Amboy Multiplex II — 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30.

FOREVER YOUNG (PG) Amboy Multiplex III — 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40.

FOREVER YOUNG (PG) Amboy Multiplex IV — 12:45, 3, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10.

A FEW GOOD MEN (R) Amboy Multiplex V — 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:05.

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (G) Amboy Multiplex VI — 11:30, 1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:15, 9:10.

THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN (R) Amboy Multiplex VII — 12:10, 2:35, 4:55, 7:30, 9:55.

THE BODYGUARD (R) Amboy Multiplex VIII — 12:30, 4, 7, 9:35.

ALADDIN (PG) Amboy Multiplex IX — 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:25, 9:30.

HOME ALONE 2 (PG) Amboy Multiplex X — 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55.

HOME ALONE 2 (PG) Amboy Multiplex XI — 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05.

MALCOLM X (PG-13) Amboy Multiplex XII — 1, 5, 9.

UNDER SIEGE (R) Amboy Multiplex XIII — 1:15, 3:25, 5:40, 8, 10:10.

BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA (R) Amboy Multiplex XIV — 2, 4:35, 7:05, 9:40.

TV listings

A full listing of broadcast and cable programs every day in the Advance TV pages.

THE DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN (R) Menlo Park I — 12:45, 3, 5:30, 8:10, 10:30.

FOREVER YOUNG (PG-13) Menlo Park II — 12:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8, 10:20.

ALADDIN (G) Menlo Park III — 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.

A FEW GOOD MEN (R) Menlo Park IV — 1, 4, 7, 9:50.

HOME ALONE 2 (PG) Menlo Park V — 12, 3, 6, 9.

THE BODYGUARD (R) Menlo Park VI — 1, 4, 7, 10.

THE BODYGUARD (R) Menlo Park VII — 12:30, 3:15, 6, 9.

TOYS (PG-13) Menlo Park VIII — 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:10, 10:10.

A FEW GOOD MEN (R) Menlo Park IX — 1, 4, 7, 10.

LEAP OF FAITH (R) — Menlo Park X — 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15.

HOME ALONE 2 (PG) — Menlo Park XI — 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50.

THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL (G) Menlo Park XII — 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10.

FOUR ADULT FILMS (XXX) Cinema 9 — Sayreville, cont. 11 a.m. to midnight.

JENNIFER 8 (R) Movie City I — 8:45. LAST OF THE MOHICANS (R) — 7:15.

PASSENGER 57 (R) Movie City II — 7:30, 9:20.

UNDER SIEGE (R) Movie City III — 7:25, 9:45.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT (PG) Movie City IV — 7:05. CONSENTING ADULTS (R) — 9:30.

3 NINJAS (PG) Movie City V — 6:55. CANDYMAN (R) — 9:35.