

NEXT STAGE



BY LYNN NOTTAGE DIRECTED BY DAVID SCHWEIZER
MAY 5—JUNE 11, 2006 THE HEAD THEATER

Crumbs
from the Table
of **JOY**

THE ARTISTIC TEAM

Director
David Schweizer

Scenic Designer
James Noone

Costume Designer
David Burdick

Lighting Designer
Alexander Nichols

Sound Designer
Mark Bennett

Speech Consultant
Gillian Lane-Plescia

Choreographer
Michael J. Bobbitt

Production Dramaturg
Liana Thompson

Casting Director
Judy Dennis

Assistant Director
Adrian Wattenmaker

THE CAST

Gerte Crump
Patricia Ageheim*

Ermina Crump
Edwina Findley*

Godfrey Crump
LeLand Gantt*

Ernestine Crump
Amina S. Robinson*

Lily Ann Green
Kelly Taffe*

Stage Manager
Mike Schleifer*

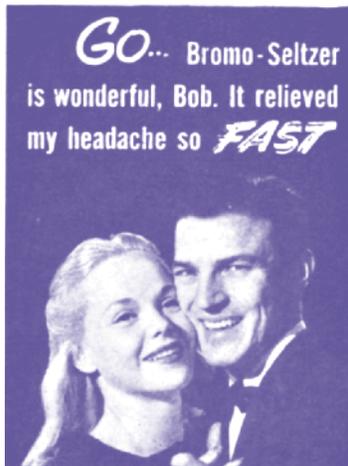
Assistant Stage Manager
Lauren Wright*

SETTING

Brooklyn, 1950

Running time is approximately 2 hours, including one 15-minute intermission.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



Help Headache **FAST** with **BROMO-SELTZER**

Take Bromo-Seltzer to relieve ordinary headache fast. Bromo-Seltzer's 1-2-3-way action helps (1) your headache, (2) your upset stomach, and (3) the jumpy nerves that may team up and cause trouble. Easy to take, pleasantly effervescent, fast-dissolving, quick to act. Dependable since 1887. Purity and quality protected by 90 separate laboratory tests supervised by registered pharmacists under Bromo-Seltzer's exclusive Product Control Plan. Caution: Use only as directed. Bromo-Seltzer comes in your convenient home sizes for your medicine chest. Get Bromo-Seltzer at your drugstore counter or fountain today.



Better Say **BROMO-SELTZER** for **FAST** headache help
Compounded by Emerson Drug Company since 1887

CONTENTS

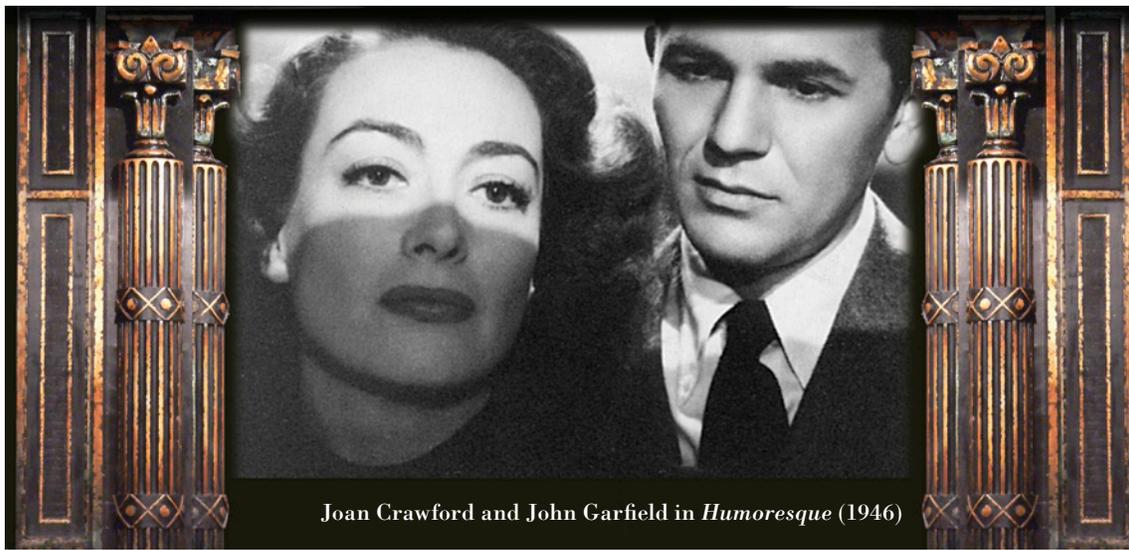
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Irene Lewis	
MANAGING DIRECTOR Michael Ross	
ART DIRECTOR Bill Geenen	2
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS Dina Epshteyn, Jason Gembicki	2
EDITORS Aaron Heinsman, Steve Lichtenstein	3
CONTRIBUTORS Steve Lichtenstein, Otis Ramsey-Zöe, Liana Thompson	4
CORPORATE SUPPORT The Black & Decker Corporation, CitiFinancial and Citigroup Foundation, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary US LLP, Legg Mason, Inc., M&T Bank, Procter & Gamble Cosmetics Foundation, Provident Bank, T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation, Inc., Target Stores, Verizon, Wal-Mart, Washington Gas	5
FOUNDATION & INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT Anonymous, The Helen P. Denit Charitable Trust, The Family League of Baltimore City, Inc., The Goldsmith Family Foundation, Lockart Vaughan Foundation, The Macht Philanthropic Fund, The Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Jeanne Murphy, The Jim & Patty Rouse Charitable Foundation, The Sheridan Foundation, The Aaron Straus & Lillie Straus Foundation, VSA arts and MetLife Foundation	6
Cover: Photo of Amina S. Robinson and Edwina Findley by Richard Anderson	8
Advertisements reprinted from <i>LIFE</i> magazine.	10
	16
	18

Cover: Photo of Amina S. Robinson and Edwina Findley by Richard Anderson

Advertisements reprinted from *LIFE* magazine.

If you have any trouble using this study guide—or for more information on CENTERSTAGE's education programs—call us at 410.986.4050. Student group rates start at just \$15. Call Group Sales at 410.986.4008 for more information. Or visit www.centerstage.org.

Material in our *Next Stage* study guide is made available free of charge for legitimate educational and research purposes only. Selective use has been made of previously published information and images whose inclusion here does not constitute license for any further reuse of any kind. All other material is the property of CENTERSTAGE, and no copies or reproductions of this material should be made for further distribution, other than for educational purposes, without express permission from the authors and CENTERSTAGE.



Joan Crawford and John Garfield in *Humoresque* (1946)

Setting the Stage

By Steve Lichtenstein

This is the story of Ernestine Crump. At 17, her world has been radically—and urgently—transformed: her mother has died; her father, Godfrey, has found solace in a religious leader; and the family has uprooted from Florida to a cramped basement apartment in Brooklyn, where the arrival of a Black family is hardly cause for celebration. Her younger sister, Ermina, is meddlesome and sassy, and her flirtatious and somewhat dipsomaniacal Aunt Lily enjoys antagonizing Godfrey and proclaims her Communism. And Ernestine’s new stepmother: the caring, desperate-for-approval Gerte? She’s white. And German.

Each Crump deals with loss and change in a different way. Ermina discovers boys. Lily moves into the apartment with an intoxicating whirlwind of booze and cigarettes, street wisdom, and indignation. Godfrey joins the church of Father Divine, to whom he sends his most important questions concerning salvation and faith. He also meets German immigrant Gerte on the train one day and decides almost immediately to marry her, much to the chagrin of the other Crumps. But amidst all the chaos around her—both inside her house and out—Ernestine knows that “something better is always on the horizon.” In her case, the horizon holds her upcoming graduation from high school and the allure and escapism of Hollywood pictures,

particularly the statuesque screen divas whose glamorous dress and elegant names so beguile her.

Ernestine also finds time to narrate her family’s story. As she stands on the cusp of adulthood, Lynn Nottage’s *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* depicts a nation caught between the need for self-improvement and the comfort of stagnation. Set in 1950, Nottage’s play shows the Crumps in a US stuck in a grey area of uncertain racial tension—before either *Brown v. Board of Education* or a formidable Civil Rights movement—where old racist notions gave way to either uneasy guilt or wanton aggression. In addition, the insular paranoia of the pre-McCarthy era—of Communists in our midst and the enemy next door—resulted in a time when everyone was suspect. *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* wryly portrays a family forced to confront the expectations and prejudices of the world around them, come to terms with their own biases and insecurities, and deal with how their relationships are affected by a shifting national conscience. Can Ernestine and Ermina deal with the social stigma of a white, foreign stepmother? Can faith and religion satisfy the pangs of loss and racism? Can the Crumps survive in a white world? Will Ernestine discover her place in the world?

How to give QUICK REST to tired eyes

MAKE THIS SIMPLE TEST TODAY



EYES OVERWORKED? Put two drops of gentle, safe Murine in each eye. Then feel that refreshing, soothing sensation that comes instantly. You get—



QUICK RELIEF from the discomfort of tired eyes. Murine’s seven important ingredients are scientifically blended to cleanse and refresh overworked, tired eyes. Use Murine morning and night and whenever your eyes tell you to.

MURINE
FOR YOUR EYES



TEETHING PAINS



RELIEVED QUICKLY

WHEN your baby suffers from teething pains, just rub a few drops of Dr. Hand’s Teething Lotion on the sore, tender, little gums and the pain will be relieved promptly.

Dr. Hand’s Teething Lotion is the prescription of a famous baby specialist and has been used by mothers for over fifty years. One bottle is usually enough for one baby for the entire teething period. Buy it from your druggist today

DR. HAND’S
TEETHING LOTION
Just rub it on the gums



HEADACHE?
TAKE A TIP FROM ME



FOR QUICK RELIEF FROM
HEADACHES
NEURALGIC & MUSCULAR PAINS



10¢ AND 25¢

CAUTION—USE ONLY AS DIRECTED

Never neglect a neck pimple



Any neck pimple can become infected. Never take a chance!

Treat the pimple properly. Then put on a BAND-AID®—the Johnson & Johnson adhesive bandage. It comes to you sterile; keeps out dirt, helps prevent infection.

Four times as many doctors recommend BAND-AID as any other ready-made adhesive bandage. Keep one box at home— one where you work.



*BAND-AID is the Reg. Trade-mark of the adhesive bandage made exclusively by Johnson & Johnson.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

LYNN NOTTAGE is a playwright from Brooklyn. She is perhaps best known for *Intimate Apparel*, the most produced play in regional theaters during the 2005–06 Season. It received an AT&T OnStage Award for its world premiere co-production between CENTERSTAGE and South Coast Repertory in 2003. *Intimate Apparel* has also garnered many additional awards, including 2004 New York Drama Critics' Circle, 2004 Outer Critics Circle, John Gassner, Steinberg New Play, and ATCA's Francesca Primus Awards. In addition to *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* and *Intimate Apparel*, her plays include *A Walk Through Time*, a children's musical; *Mud, River, Stone*, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize; *Por'Knockers*; *Poof!*, Heideman Award-winner; *Las Meninas*, also an AT&T OnStage Award-winner; and *Fabulation or, The Re-Education of Undine*, a companion piece to *Intimate Apparel*.



Her plays have been produced Off Broadway and regionally by The Acting Company, Actors

Theatre of Louisville, Alliance Theatre Company, Buffalo Studio Arena, Crossroads Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Playwrights Horizons, Second Stage, San Jose Repertory Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Roundabout Theatre Company, Yale Repertory Theatre, and many others. She has been awarded playwriting fellowships from Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists, and New York Foundation for the Arts, where she is a member of their Artists Advisory Board. She has also received an NEA/TCG grant for a year-long theater residency with

Philadelphia's Freedom Theatre, as well as a PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award for Drama honoring her body of work. An anthology of her plays was published by TCG in 2004. She is a member of New Dramatists and a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama. Ms. Nottage is currently under commission from CENTERSTAGE to write a new play.

In Ms. Nottage's own words:

"The 1950s was a moment in American history in which I felt so much change. It was the beginning of the Civil Rights movement. Music was going through this explosion. You had be-bop, rock 'n' roll—so much that was going on. Such a volatile and rich period. Yet everything I had seen was in black and white. And I wanted to make it colorful. So I started writing *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* to try to understand that era."

"On a panel I led about multiculturalism and theater, I once asked the question, 'When are we going to write plays that are inclusive?' We have to write plays that will reflect the culture we live in. I grew up in a multicultural neighborhood. I write plays that reflect my reality and that are honest to who I am."

"The popularity of August Wilson 15 years ago helped crack the door open for many African American playwrights because these regional theaters that have large subscription audiences suddenly became much more receptive to putting an African American play in a slot because of the success of August Wilson. I still think there's only one slot left for African American plays so I don't think that much has changed. I think what might have shifted though, is that that slot might now go to an African American woman every once in a while as opposed to an African American man."

Glossary

banshee (*n*)—in Gaelic folklore, a female spirit whose appearance or wailing warns a family of an impending death

convalescing (*v*)—recovering one's health and strength after an injury or sickness

copasetic (*adj*)—slang term popular in the '50s, meaning extremely satisfactory or agreeable

decorum (*n*)—good taste in conduct or appearance; orderliness

elixir (*n*)—a medicinal concoction; a cure-all



ELIXIR

etymologist (*n*)—one who studies the history and origins of words and language

gossamer (*n*)—something light, delicate, or insubstantial

gumption (*n*)—the initiative to take action; boldness, spunk

hibiscus (*n*)—any of a large family of herbs, shrubs, or small trees with large showy flowers



HIBISCUS



BANSHEE

moonshine (*n*)—an illegally-made distilled whiskey



MOONSHINE

persnickety (*adj*)—fussy or snobby

prescience (*n*)—foreknowledge or anticipation of events

proletariat (*n*)—the lowest social or economic class of a community; the laboring class

unabashedly (*adv*)—blatantly or unapologetically

unadulterated (*adj*)—pure



get on
and go!



with a new





Reality and Fantasy in 1950

By Liana Thompson, Production Dramaturg

A memory play, *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* walks a fine line between the real and the imagined; reality can be trumped by fantasy, and fantasy can inform reality. Adding to the unique plane in which the play exists is the distinct place in history in which the play lives—five years after World War II, four years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, concurrent with the rise of Senator Joseph McCarthy. A country in transition, a family transitioning, possibilities, roadblocks, and all that jazz.

The Rise and Fall of American Communism

During the Depression, the Communist Party gained followers in America as it allied with some of the same industrial workers who were leading union-building strikes. In addition to this commitment to the workers' struggle, the Communist Party also made racial justice a priority; therefore, in many African American communities, Communism gained particular popularity into the 1930s.

In the mid-1930s, however, the Communist Party made a political calculation and began backing more mainstream labor programs and the Democratic Party, seeming to abandon its earlier populist commitment. By 1937, the class struggle was losing ground it had earlier gained, and many workers who had joined the Party during the 1930s would leave it by the end of the decade. The exodus of members swelled further when Stalin signed a short-lived pact with Hitler in 1939.

Though the United States and the Soviet Union became allies during World War II, at its conclusion they quickly assumed adversarial stances. The ensuing Cold War helped spur a period of intense anti-Communism in America, which came to a head in the early 1950s. Early in 1950, Senator Joseph McCarthy delivered a speech in which he claimed to have a list of 205 “known” Communists in the State Department. As he conducted a campaign to locate alleged Communist spies in the US government, McCarthy unleashed an anti-Communist hysteria. Though most accusations would eventually prove false, the careers of many journalists, actors, government officials, and other prominent figures were ruined throughout the early 1950s. The mere accusation or suspicion of harboring Communist sympathies, or being tied to anyone who did, was enough to taint anyone from the powerless to the powerful.



SENATOR JOSEPH MCCARTHY

The Great Migration

A dramatic exodus of African Americans from country to city and from South to North, the Great Migration brought millions of Blacks to Northern cities. Between 1940 and 1950 alone, 1.5 million African Americans relocated.



Frost at night . . . warm sun at noon—
that's ideal weather for a good crop of
maple syrup and sugar.

Old-fashioned real maple sugar flavor

In the maple sugar country, folks young
and old love to follow the whiff of wood
smoke to the sugar house . . . to enjoy
that luscious treat—real maple sugar
flavor.

To give you that flavor in Vermont
Maid Syrup, we choose maple sugar that
has a rich, full flavor. Then blend it with
cane and other sugars. This blending en-
hances the maple flavor—makes it richer,
more delicious. Get Vermont
Maid at your grocer's.

Penick & Ford, Ltd., Inc.,
Burlington, Vermont.



Vermont Maid Syrup

French's WORCESTERSHIRE GIVES

Scrambled eggs

wonderful
new flavor



Melt in a skillet over a
slow fire: 2 tablesp. butter
or margarine. Beat and
pour into the skillet: 6
eggs, 6 tablesp. milk, 3
teasp. French's Worces-
tershire Sauce, ½ teasp.
salt, ½ teasp. paprika.
As the mixture thickens
break it into shreds with
a fork. Serves 4.

TOP-NOTCH QUALITY AT
half the price

Life in the South was harsh and unpleasant. Rampant poverty, segregation and discrimination, limited employment opportunities, and the lack of educational facilities for children all motivated many to leave their homes. Additionally, work in the agricultural sector—largely confined to sharecropping and tenant farming—waned as farming technology developed. Meanwhile, industrial jobs opened up in the North as wartime production kicked into gear and workers left to join the ranks of the American troops. This combination of factors led many north in search of work and a better life.

Jim Crow laws, enforcing segregation of the races in many states, were also a prime factor motivating the decision to leave the South. Many hoped to escape lynching, threats, beatings, and the daily degradation of this official segregation. The sting of Jim Crow can be felt in a letter published in the *Chicago Defender*, circa 1935:

*Dear Sir,
I indeed wish to come to the North—
anywhere in Illinois will do so long as
I'm away from the hangman's noose
and the torch man's fire. Conditions
here are horrible with us. I want to
get my family out of this accursed
Southland. Down here a Negro man's
not as good as a white man's dog.*

Good jobs, bright lights, big cities, equality, opportunity: the North was the setting for great dreams.



PARAMOUNT THEATRE, BROOKLYN, NY

Brooklyn and New York City

Despite dreams of possibility, the massive northward migration brought into sharp relief how entrenched segregation and discrimination were on a national scale. In 1930, Blacks living in Brooklyn had been the least segregated in the borough; by 1950, they were the most segregated. This was due in part to a neighborhood mapping program by Home Owners Loan Corporation, which created race-defined zones for Blacks and Latinos, and caused sharp race divisions to pervade Brooklyn.

Throughout New York City, hotels, restaurants, and other places of leisure or recreation often flagrantly violated state laws barring racial discrimination and segregation—either by refusing to serve Black customers flat out or by making them feel unwelcome or uncomfortable. When the celebrated African American performer Josephine Baker visited the city with her French husband in 1948, she went to 36 hotels before getting a room. The late 1940s and early 1950s would see a marked change in service patterns, brought about by protests and lawsuits.



JOSEPHINE BAKER

It is into this world—of increasingly segregated neighborhoods, of the precursors of the Civil Rights movement, of the burgeoning Communist scare—that the Crumps move when they arrive in Brooklyn in the fall of 1950.

1950

A Brief Timeline of Notable Events

January 12—British submarine *Truculent* collides with a Swedish oil tanker in River Thames, killing 64 people.

January 15—A Volcanic cloud kills 5,000 people in Mount Lamington, New Guinea.



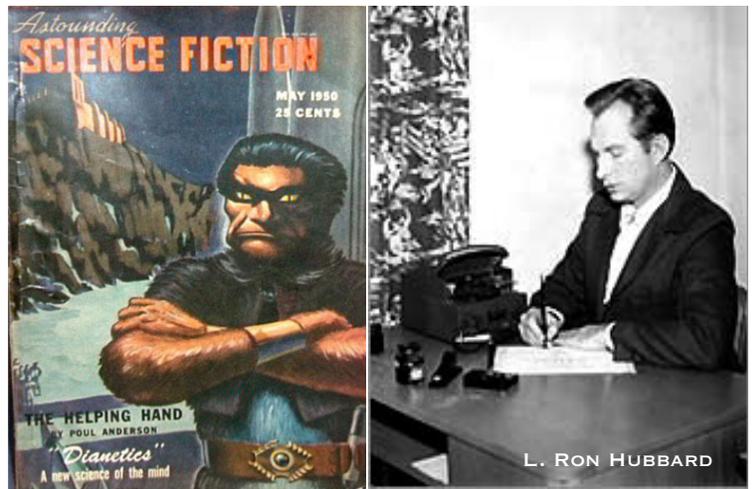
January 31—President Harry S. Truman announces a program to develop the hydrogen bomb.

February 9—In his speech to the Republican Women's Club at the McClure Hotel in Wheeling, West Virginia, Senator Joseph McCarthy charges that there are communists in the US Department of State.

March 3—Poland states that it intends to exile all Germans.



March 8—The Soviet Union claims to have an atomic bomb.



May 9—Science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard publishes the popular self-help book *Dianetics: The Modern Science Of Mental Health*, which eventually leads to the founding of the Church of Scientology.

May 25—The Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel is formally opened to traffic in New York City.

June 24—A commercial airliner crashes into Lake Michigan, killing 58 people. The reason for the disaster is unknown; only fragments of the plane and the bodies of passengers were ever found.



June 25—The Korean War begins. In the US, people begin to hoard supplies in case of rationing and shortages.

August 5—Florence Chadwick swims the English Channel in 13 hours, 22 minutes.

August 15—An earthquake and floods in Assam, India kill 574 people. 5,000,000 people are believed to be homeless as a result.

September 7—Game show *Truth or Consequences* debuts on television.



October 1—The comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles M. Schulz is first published in seven US newspapers.

October 11—The FCC issues a license to Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) to begin color TV broadcasting, causing a controversy when RCA claims that they had developed a superior color broadcasting device.



October 26—Sister Mary Teresa begins her charity work in Calcutta; she later becomes known as Mother Teresa.

November 1—Puerto Rican nationalists Griselio Torresola and Oscar Collazo attempt to assassinate US President Harry S. Truman, who is staying at the Blair-Lee House in Washington, DC during White House repairs.

November 24—*Guys and Dolls* debuts at Broadway's 46th Street Theatre.

November 25—A winter storm ravages the Northeast US, bringing 30 to 50 inches of snow and below zero temperatures, killing 323 people.

Average Costs, 1950:

Car: \$1,750



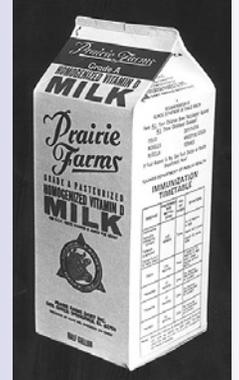
Gasoline: 27¢/gal



House: \$14,500

Bread: 14¢/loaf

Milk: 82¢/gal



Average Annual Salary: \$3,800

Minimum Wage: 75¢/hour

Postage Stamp: 3¢



People and Things from the 1950s

By Steve Lichtenstein, Public Relations Associate

The characters in Lynn Nottage's *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* make a number of references to popular people and things of the time. But because they don't include any descriptions for these references, we thought it'd be helpful to provide a brief, introductory—but by no means exhaustive—look at some of the more famous namedroppers.



FREEMAN GOSDEN AND CHARLES CORRELL

Amos 'n' Andy

With a weekly audience of 40 million listeners (nearly one-third of the US population at the time), *Amos 'n' Andy* was one of the first and most successful syndicated radio shows in history. From its roots as a weekly serial on WMAQ in Chicago, the story of two Black men who leave Atlanta and head for the Windy City to find success with a taxi company spawned catchphrases, a movie, and a television series. Created and voiced by Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll—two White actors—the show actually began in 1926 on Chicago's WGN as *Sam 'n' Henry*, one of the first radio serials. After the station declined the actors' request to syndicate the show to other stations, they quit and moved the show to WMAQ, where it debuted as *Amos 'n' Andy* in March 1928. Gosden and Correll performed all of the male roles, providing

more than 170 distinctive voices during the show's first decade. Fueled by high drama and weekly cliffhangers, the show was broadcast on 70 stations; at the height of its popularity, movie theaters stopped their feature each night to broadcast the 15-minute episode of *Amos 'n' Andy*. The show spawned a 1930 film—the poorly received *Check and Double Check*—and eventually became a TV show, running from 1951–53. The television version featured African American actors Alvin Childress and Spencer Williams in the title roles, though they were instructed to emulate the voices of Gosden and Correll as much as possible. Though the show was immensely popular, it also aroused controversy for its use of 19th-century minstrel-show stereotypes to portray African Americans. The show was protested regularly, and the NAACP was instrumental in its cancellation. *Amos 'n' Andy* was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in 1988.

Foolish
to Neglect Sniffles, Sneezes of
Head Colds!

DOUBLE-DUTY NOSE DROPS
Now Helping Millions!

A bottle of Vicks Va-tro-nol is mighty handy to have around the house when you catch a head cold because it is a double-duty nose drops that works fast right where trouble is . . .

Quickly Relieves sneezy, sniffly, stuffy distress of head colds. Makes breathing easier.

Helps Prevent many colds from developing if used at the first warning sniffle or sneeze.

This Double-Duty Nose Drops should save you much misery. Works fine!

VICKS You'll like it! Follow directions in the package.

VA-TRO-NOL

COUGHING COLDS Relieve coughing, help loosen phlegm, ease muscular soreness and tightness with Vicks VapoRub. Its famous poultice-vapor action brings welcome relief and invites restful sleep!

VICKS
VAPORUB

The Lowest Priced
Nationally Advertised
Tooth Brush
in America

only 23¢

IN DUST-PROOF CARTON

Pro-phy-lac-tic
NYLON
Tooth Brush

Bette Davis

April 5, 1908–October 6, 1989

Bette Davis is remembered almost as much for her fiery personality and off-screen battles as she is for her six-decade film career, which spanned nearly 100 movies and 10 Academy Award nominations, including Oscar wins for *Dangerous* and *Jezebel*. Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, and often referred to as either “The Queen of Hollywood” or “The First Lady of the American Screen,” Davis was the first woman to head the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and the first actress to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award (1977) from the American Film Institute. Known for her scathing wit and often combative demeanor, Davis was notoriously considered to be hard to work with, and had several high-profile rivals, including fellow actress Joan Crawford. She also claimed to have nicknamed the Academy Award “Oscar.” Davis spent most of her later years acting in TV movies—garnering an Emmy Award for *Strangers: The Story of a Mother and Daughter* (1979)—before succumbing to breast cancer in 1989. She is also known for that song about her eyes.

Notable films: *Dangerous* (1935), *Jezebel* (1938), *All About Eve* (1950), *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962)



BETTE DAVIS

Charlie Parker

August 29, 1920–March 12, 1955

Originally nicknamed “Yardbird”—later trimmed to “Bird”—Charlie Parker is widely considered the best and most influential jazz saxophonist of all time. He became a figurehead for the Beat generation and a founder of bebop, and incorporated melody, rhythm, and harmony in such an innovative way that he was able to maintain a creativity that pleased both critics and the masses. He was also known to fuse other musical styles into his jazz, including classical and Latin music. Born and raised in Kansas City, Parker moved to New York in 1939. There, he worked several jobs to pay the bills while playing music in after-hours bars in Harlem with the likes of trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, pianist Thelonius Monk, and guitarist Charlie Christian. It was during this time that they

developed bebop. As a teenager, Parker was injured in an auto accident and subsequently developed a morphine addiction, which turned into a heroin addiction in his adult years. Though his death at the age of 34 was officially ruled to be the result of pneumonia and a bleeding ulcer, Parker’s heroin habit surely contributed, severely shortening a nonetheless brilliant career.



CHARLIE PARKER

Notable recordings: *Bird & Pres* (1946), *Bird & Diz* (1950), *Summit Meeting at Birdland* (1951), *The Greatest Jazz Concert Ever* (1953)

Bebop

Bebop emerged in the 1940s as a style of jazz that contrasted to the music of the big bands. It featured a small group of musicians—4 to 6 players—rather than the 10+ associated with big bands. The music itself was characterized by more complex melodies and chord progressions, and more emphasis on the role of the rhythm section, than other forms of jazz. Phrases within the music were often irregular in length, making bebop interesting to listen to but, in contrast to music of the big bands, difficult to dance to. Perhaps its most significant characteristic was the highly diversified texture created by the rhythm section—a considerable contrast to the insistent four-beat approach that was taken by swing musicians. The development of bebop is attributed in large part to trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie and saxophonist Charlie Parker. The unique styles of Gillespie and Parker contributed to and typified the bebop sound. Using the blues and the harmonic framework of swing standards,

What a star this "Z"
turned out to be!



LIP

TIP

ZIP

Since you don't change oil as often as you buy gasoline, you may not be as conscious of the great difference the right motor oil can make in the performance of your car . . . especially if it's Pennzoil. For Pennzoil is pure Pennsylvania oil stepped up by 60 years' refining improvements that add zip, smoothness and long life to your engine. Naturally there's no substitute for Pennzoil . . . so take a tip, sound your "Z" loud and free.

Sound your "Z"
PENNZOIL

BETTER DEALERS
FROM COAST TO COAST
DISPLAY THIS SIGN



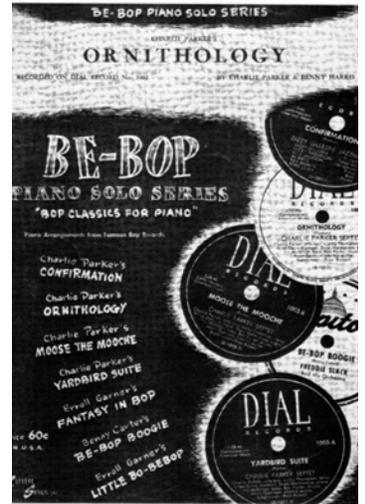
PENNZOIL® GIVES ALL ENGINES AN EXTRA MARGIN OF SAFETY

PEOPLE & THINGS CONTINUED

beboppers replaced popular melodies with new, more complex bebop melodies. Staples of the bebop repertoire included "Ornithology," "Donna Lee," "Groovin' High," and "Hot House." Their fast pulse and rich harmonic vocabulary defined a new direction for jazz—and a new art form. Although bop was solidly grounded in earlier jazz styles, it was considered revolutionary at the time of its development.

Notable Bebop musicians: Julian

Adderley, alto saxophone; Clifford Brown, trumpet; Charlie Christian, guitar; Kenny Clarke, drums; Tadd Dameron, piano; Miles Davis, trumpet; Dizzy Gillespie, trumpet; Dexter Gordon, tenor sax; Wardell Gray, saxophone; Barry Harris, piano ; J.J. Johnson, trombone; Thelonious Monk, piano; Fats Navarro, trumpet; Charlie Parker, alto sax; Chano Pozo, conga; Sonny Rollins, saxophone; Sonny Stitt, saxophone



Jim Crow laws

After Reconstruction ended in 1877 and federal troops left the South, local and state governments passed a series of laws severely limiting the new freedoms that African Americans had finally gained after the Civil War. Those who instituted these laws called them Jim Crow laws, referring to an antebellum minstrel character named "Jump Jim Crow"—a racist depiction of a poor, uneducated, Southern Black man. Some examples of Jim Crow laws, which varied from state to state:

- All passenger stations in this state operated by any motor transportation company shall have separate waiting rooms or space and separate ticket windows for the white and colored races.
- All marriages between a white person and a Negro, or between a white person and a person of Negro descent to the fourth generation inclusive, are hereby forever prohibited.
- The schools for white children and the schools for Negro children shall be conducted separately.

Joan Crawford

March 23, 1905–May 10, 1977

A revered, Academy Award-winning actress, Crawford began her film career in the 1920s playing flappers. She soon moved on to specialize in portraying determined young women who found romance through adversity, in tales that enamored Depression-era audiences. By the mid-1930s, she was one of the most famous and wealthy women in America; a series of well-received movies she made with Clark Gable made them the most successful romantic duo of the day. After a brief decline at MGM, Crawford moved to Warner Bros. in 1943 and revitalized her career, starring in *Mildred Pierce*, which brought her only Oscar for Best Actress. Her new role as leading lady of Warner Bros. deprived Bette Davis of that

title, sparking a decades-long rivalry. After a career spanning more than 40 years and 80 films, Crawford died of a heart attack in her New York apartment in 1977. Her eldest daughter, Christina, published the memoir *Mommie Dearest* shortly after Crawford's death, in which she accused her mother of physical and emotional abuse. The book later became a legendary cult film starring Faye Dunaway as Crawford, and informing children everywhere about the dangers of wire hangers.

Notable films: *Grand Hotel* (1932), *Mildred Pierce* (1945), *Possessed* (1947), *Sudden Fear* (1952), *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* (1962)



JOAN CRAWFORD



JOSEPH MCCARTHY

Joseph McCarthy

November 14, 1908–May 2, 1957

Born and raised in Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy became the state's junior senator in 1947, serving until his death in 1957. In a country already anxious about perceived threats from the Soviet Union, McCarthy's speech on February 9, 1950—stating that he had the names of Communist sympathizers within the State Department—fanned the rising hysteria. Throughout the early part of the decade, McCarthy was both the public face and driving force for a movement to identify and expose alleged Communists, first within the government and then throughout public life. Accusing anyone who opposed him of having Communist sympathies and using his power with ruthless force, McCarthy won wide popularity for the perception that he was protecting the country from imminent danger. From Washington to Hollywood, the

anti-Communist hysteria spread as citizens turned on, and turned in, their fellows. In March, 1954, journalist Edward R. Murrow's popular show *See It Now* used McCarthy's own speeches to criticize his attacks, one of the first times that McCarthy was publicly challenged. The show, and McCarthy's predictable attacks in response, spawned a public backlash and marked the beginning of the senator's decline. On December 2, 1954, the Senate voted to censure McCarthy for conduct "unbecoming a member of the United States Senate." He died of acute hepatitis in 1957 at the age of 48. The phrase "McCarthyism" has lived on as a term to describe the practice of publicizing unsubstantiated allegations of subversion or disloyalty, or the use of questionable methods to quell opposition.

Marlene Dietrich

December 27, 1901–May 6, 1992

The German-born screen star was a violinist before going to acting school in 1921. After first performing in German movies, she got a role in the European talkie *The Blue Angel* in 1930. Dietrich then moved to Hollywood, first appearing in *Morocco*—for which she received her only Oscar nomination—then in several performances as *femmes fatales*, before finally rising to more prominent roles in films like *Judgment at Nuremberg* and Orson Welles' *Touch of Evil*. Dietrich, a passionate anti-Nazi, was very outspoken in her politics; after becoming an American citizen in 1937, she spent time overseas entertaining US troops. From the 1950s through the mid-1970s, Dietrich spent time on stage as a cabaret performer, singing an array of songs from her movies and popular tunes of the day. She married once and had one daughter, in 1924. It was often speculated that Dietrich was bisexual, and some of her rumored lovers included major stars of the day, such as Greta Garbo and Joan Crawford.

Notable films: *Morocco* (1930), *Shanghai Express* (1932), *Touch of Evil* (1958), *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961)



MARLENE DIETRICH

Olivia de Havilland

July 1, 1916–



OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND

Born in Tokyo, de Havilland early moved with her family—including sister and fellow actress Joan Fontaine—to California, where her film career began with *Alibi Ike* in 1935. She acted in a series of movies with Errol Flynn, including *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), before famously appearing as Melanie Wilkes in *Gone with the Wind*—landing her first Academy Award nomination. Increasingly frustrated at being typecast as the “damsel in distress” and sure that she could play more varied roles, de Havilland launched a successful lawsuit to limit the power the film studios had in deciding roles for their actors, gaining the actors more sway instead. The resulting de Havilland Law, as it is still known, won the actress many friends and much respect in Hollywood, and led to better roles for her and many of her peers. She would win the Academy Award for Best Actress for her roles in *To Each His*

MAKING YOUR BATHROOM CLOROX-CLEAN?

YES, I BELIEVE IN GREATER HOME SANITATION!

YOUR GUESTS as well as your family appreciate a sanitary bathroom. Far more important than spic-and-span tidiness is hygienic cleanliness, so easily provided by Clorox. Since dangerous germs can exist on clean-looking washbasins, bathtubs, toilets and floors, it's an effective health precaution to use Clorox in routine cleansing. For Clorox disinfects... it protects. It also deodorizes and removes stains. Simply follow label directions.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE BLEACH AND HOUSEHOLD DISINFECTANT

CLOROX

FREE FROM CAUSTIC

Disinfects

DEODORIZES BLEACHES REMOVES STAINS

When it's CLOROX-CLEAN... it's Hygienically Clean!

YOU CAN'T BEAT
this to relieve itching of
SKIN and SCALP
IRRITATIONS

So Many Druggists Say!

Here's a Doctor's formula — Zemo — a stainless liquid which appears invisible on skin — yet so remarkably soothing that first applications promptly relieve itching, burning of Eczema, Psoriasis and similar skin and scalp irritations — due to external cause. Zemo ALSO aids healing.

Apply clean, stainless invisible Zemo any time. It won't show on skin. Buy Extra Strength Zemo for mean cases.

ZEMO

LIFE has 22,000,000 readers every week.

KILL INSECTS WITHOUT DUST OR SPRAY

Houseflies, Silverfish, Waterbugs and Crickets eat the bait in the protective tube and die. Can't be blown or tracked onto food supplies. Clean, long lasting. Sold by drug, grocery and other stores. 3 pkgs. \$1 postpaid if yours has none. Over 20 million sold.

DeSoto Chemical Co., No. 3 Day St., Arcadia, Fla.

GATOR ROACH HIVES

WATCH CRYSTALS YOU CAN'T BREAK

ANY SIZE — ANY SHAPE

ASK ANY JEWELER FOR A G-5 FLEKO CRYSTAL 100% BREAKPROOF. CAN BE FITTED WHILE YOU WAIT. GUARANTEED.

GERMANOW-SIMON CO. ROCHESTER 1, N. Y.

Own (1946) and *The Heiress* (1949). She continued acting sporadically through the 1980s.

Notable films: *Gone With the Wind* (1939), *To Each His Own* (1946), *The Heiress* (1949), *Hush...Hush*, *Sweet Charlotte* (1964)

Scottsboro Boys

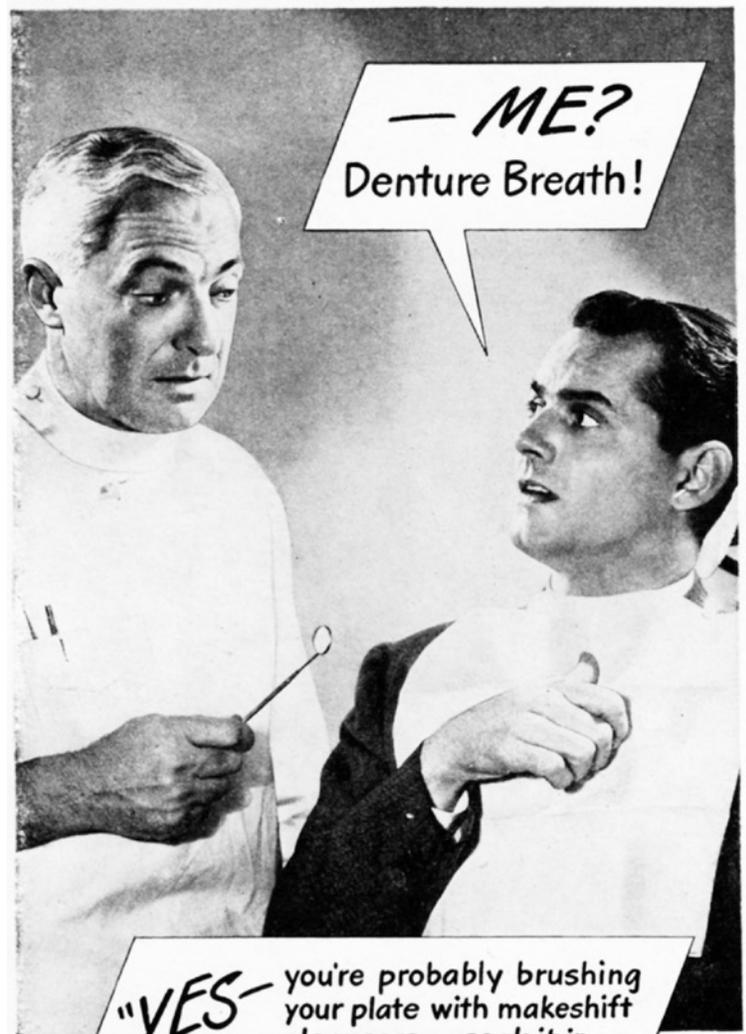
On March 25, 1931, nine young African American men, ranging in age from 13 to 21, were on a Southern Railway freight train bound for Birmingham, Alabama. When a fight broke out between the boys and some white passengers, the white men were forced off the train, at which point they called the police to meet the train at the next station. The nine boys were charged with assault and taken to Scottsboro, Alabama, the Jackson County seat, where two white women also on the train—Victoria Price and Rudy Bates—agreed to accuse them of rape. All nine were eventually tried and convicted—eight of them sentenced to death—despite the protests of the NAACP and testimony from Bates in which she denied being raped. Though all the defendants eventually won freedom, their case has long been considered one of the most egregious travesties of the American justice system. The Scottsboro Boys were the inspiration for the Tom Robinson case in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

The Scottsboro Boys—Olen Montgomery, Clarence Norris, Ozzie Powell, Willie Robertson, Charles Weems, Eugene Williams, Andrew Wright, and Leroy “Roy” Wright



THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS

FALSE TEETH WEARERS



How YOU can Avoid Danger of DENTURE BREATH

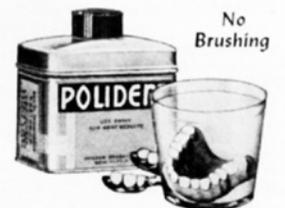
PLAY SAFE! Soak your plate or bridge in Polident. Don't brush with ordinary cleansers that scratch your denture. Scratches collect food and film, causing offensive DENTURE BREATH.

Besides, plate material is *60 times softer than natural teeth*. Brushing with ordinary dentifrices and soaps can wear down delicate fitting ridges. Then your plate loosens!

With Polident, there's no brushing—so no danger! It's the new, safe way to keep dentures sparkling clean, odor-free . . . just by easy, daily soaking. Helps keep your denture's original, natural look—for less than 1¢ a day. All drug stores; 30¢, 60¢.

**Play Safe—Soak Dentures
in Polident Daily
It's Easy! It's Quick!**

Soak your plate or bridge in Polident fifteen minutes or longer . . . rinse . . . and it's ready to use. A daily Polident bath gets into tiny crevices brushing never seems to reach—keeps your dentures sparkling clean and odor-free.



Use POLIDENT Daily

TO KEEP PLATES AND BRIDGES CLEAN... AND ODOR-FREE!

DIVINE FAITH

by Otis Ramsey-Zöe, Literary Manager

In 1932, a charismatic preacher calling himself Father Divine—and proclaiming himself an incarnation of God—set up shop in Harlem, where he founded the International Peace Mission Movement. This organization featured some now-familiar elements: the worship of its leader as God; cooperative, communal living wherein believers labored without pay and forfeited their possessions to the group; adherence to vows of the strictest morality, celibacy, and charity; and a doctrine of equality for all. Divine’s ministry offered a response to people’s cries for justice, peace, and understanding by claiming to offer freedom from some of society’s burdens.

Father Divine first surfaced around 1914 proclaiming his divinity; records of his earlier life—possibly as a man named George Baker, who earned a living doing lawn work in Baltimore—are obscure. What is certain is that, in 1919, Divine and a group of followers moved to Sayville, Long Island. There, he converted his home into a residence for believers, claiming that he intended to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. His ministry steadily attracted followers, and in 1932 he named it the International Peace Mission Movement. Not fully welcome in Sayville, Divine moved the Mission’s headquarters to Harlem. (He would later move again—to Philadelphia—in 1942.) By 1934, international congregations were taking root as far away as Europe and Australia.

Divine’s claim that he was God offered his followers freedom from blind faith. We think of faith as belief without proof, or what *Hebrews 11:1* calls “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Divine felt that, in an increasingly inhumane world, people were more likely to commit to

ideas of faith if they could justify their belief with proof. So for those needing to base their belief system on something tangible, Divine’s assertion that he was God—“personified and materialized” in the flesh—proved attractive.

In the midst of the Depression, the International Peace Mission also drew followers with its promises to release them from the burdens of material possessions and want. Believers who resided in a Heaven—the name Divine gave to his communal homes and communities—surrendered all of their belongings and worked without pay; in exchange, Father Divine provided food and shelter. Believers who did not live in any of the Heavens were encouraged to spend money only on essential needs, and then yield their remaining income and assets to the Peace Mission. Divine emphasized the importance of this gesture by preaching, “Lay not up treasures on earth where moth and thief and mouse break in and steal, but lay it up in Heaven with your Father.” He would then urge, “He who would enter into the Kingdom of God must have nothing he can call his own.” Followers who obeyed this charge and resigned property to Divine were called “Angels” and were awarded new names like Ruth Rachel, Frank Incense, and Blessed Charity.

As “the Great Provider,” Divine hosted free Sunday evening meals for Angels and guests. Word of these “miraculous” feedings spread, and the free dinners eventually attracted such multitudes that, at one point, officials brought public nuisance charges against Divine. He was tried before a County Justice, convicted, fined \$500, and sentenced to a year in jail. Four days after the verdict, the Justice—a robust 55-year-



old man—died of heart failure. Many proclaimed that Divine had used his powers to strike down the Justice; the incident, seen as proof that Divine was God, contributed to the further growth of his ministry.

Perhaps the Peace Mission's most attractive features were its message of equality and its advocacy of civil rights. As early as 1936, Divine unveiled a plan for equal rights—the "Righteousness Government Platform"—and proposed a Federal Anti-Lynching Bill. In 1946, he married Edna Rose Ritchings, a white Canadian who assumed the title Mother Divine. He called their union "the marriage of the Lamb and the Bride," echoing *Revelations* 19:7. For his followers, the marriage of Divine and Ritchings represented a true portrait of racial equality. Indeed, in a sermon celebrating his sixth wedding anniversary, Divine declared, "I AM bringing all nations, languages, tongues, and people together! I have broken that line of demarcation as aforesaid, and I AM bringing an end to that Mason and Dixon line!"

Father Divine's enormous appeal was inextricably linked to national and international politics at the time of his ministry. Racial and economic inequality produced a hunger for his message—an opportunity that he seized and exploited. With each supposed miracle, word spread of this man who claimed

I shall Unify them so effectively by the Law of the Spirit of Life that was in CHRIST JESUS until that Law will motivate the whole machinery of the human race. Aren't you glad! Then we shall have a Righteous Government! Races, colors, and creeds will no longer be considered and you will not be low-rated and disgraced in consideration because of complexion. Aren't you glad! For this cause, every nation, language, tongue, and people shall love ME!

It is written:

"Out of one Blood, God created all nations to dwell upon the face of the whole earth."

That Blood is it that is in These Veins. I AM as much of one as I AM the other, therefore, I Came to bring an abolition to that line of demarcation and the word that is discriminatory in itself, which tends to Low-rate some and exalt some.

Can you not see the Mystery!

(Father Divine, from his message given at Circle Mission Church of Philadelphia on November 2, 1943.)

to be God incarnate; despite controversy and skepticism, Divine's ministry grew. Belief in his claim to be God dissipated after Divine's death in 1965, but for those who remained faithful, his death was viewed as a final act of personal sacrifice.



MIXING WHITES AND BLACKS AT HIS FREE DINNERS, FATHER DIVINE SHOCKED MANY AMERICANS.

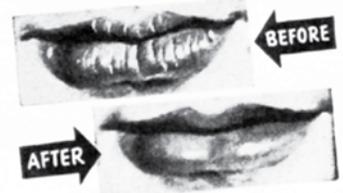
MEDICATED FOR
CLOTHESPIN NOSE

Got a cold? Get two-way relief with Luden's! A Luden's on your tongue helps soothe throat—then, as it melts, releases cool menthol vapor. Your breath carries this to clogged nasal passages, helps open your "clothespin nose!"



NEW LUDEN'S HONEY-LICORICE COUGH DROPS!
Here's a new flavor in cough relief by the makers of Luden's Menthol Cough Drops. Both are medicated. Both 5¢.

UN-CHAP CHAPPED LIPS!



with new, soothing **LYPSYL**

Just apply Lypsyl to your chapped, dry lips for quick, soothing relief. Lypsyl contains Benzoinated Pomade. Lypsyl is effective, works fast. Only 25¢ at all drug counters.

USE LYPSYL
PRONOUNCED "LIP-SIL"

CONTAINING LIP SOFTENING BENZOINATED POMADE



BACK AGAIN! PRECIOUS NAIL FILES
More wonderful than ever before! La Cross precision made implements are once more helping to beautify America's nails. Look for La Cross manicure implements at all fine stores.

La Cross ... For more than 4 decades America's Finest Manicure Implements
SCHNEFFEL BROS. CORP. • 630 FIFTH AVE. • NEW YORK 20

Never neglect bleeding gums

IT MAY MEAN YOU HAVE

GINGIVITIS



4 OUT OF 5 Even young folks may get it — A sly enemy of handsome teeth and firm gums

Take heed—if your gums bleed even a *tiny* bit or are tender to touch. These are often the first signs of Gingivitis—a wicked enemy of firm gums and handsome teeth.

Neglect of this common gum inflammation often leads to dreaded Pyorrhoea, which only your dentist can help. See him every 3 months.

Then at home one of the best ways to help guard against Gingivitis is to massage gums and brush teeth twice daily with Forhan's Toothpaste.

Made especially for both massaging gums and brushing teeth

Forhan's Toothpaste—that remarkable formula of Dr. R. J. Forhan—is the **FIRST** and **ORIGINAL** toothpaste for both massaging gums to be firmer and for cleaning teeth to their natural brilliant lustre and sparkle.

Just notice how *refreshed* your gums feel—how *naturally bright* and *lustrous* your teeth look. No wonder the Forhan method has been used and recommended by so many dentists.

Buy a tube of Forhan's today. Let your *whole family* enjoy its benefits! At all dept., drug and 10¢ stores.



NO HARSH ABRASIVES IN FORHAN'S
use Forhan's
with massage
FOR FIRMER GUMS—CLEANER TEETH

ACTIVITIES

The Kitchen Table

“...For me the journey begins downstairs at the kitchen table...”
—Lynn Nottage

Gather the people who inspire you around your kitchen table. These may be family members, friends, neighbors, community members, teachers, or people from your church. Tell each other stories about your life. Start with the best part of your day, week, month, or year. See where the stories go, and record any ideas that intrigue you.

Revisit these notes and turn them into a short story, monologue, poem, song, or play. Share this with the people who inspired you at another meeting around the kitchen table.

Music of the 1950s

Take a trip to your local library and visit the music section. Most libraries either have a listening room or will allow you to check out music for a period of time. Find the bebop section. Listen to a few recordings by famous bebop musicians, such as Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie.

What do you notice about this style of music? Now compare the sounds of that time period to your favorite style of music today. How is bebop different or similar?



DUKE JORDAN,
MILES DAVIS,
CHARLIE
PARKER,
AND TOMMY
POTTER AT
THE THREE
DEUCES, NYC.

Free Thinkers

“...they find themselves living with a bon vivant aunt who is very much out of her time. She is a free-thinker, and at that period a free-thinker was assumed to be a Communist. So she is branded a Communist, even though she isn't. She is just an independent, modern woman.”
—Lynn Nottage

In this play, Aunt Lily is labeled a Communist because she is a free thinker. Have you ever been labeled by others because of your individuality? Write about a time when you were judged by someone. What thoughts, feelings, and consequences have you had to deal with because you choose to be an independent, free-thinker?