

## CLOSING DOORS

**T**his year's theatre season has sustained at least a temporary casualty, as a New York company suspends operations for the present.

CSC Repertory, also known as City Stage Company, closed its doors on Jan. 29, cutting short its run of a radical interpretation of *Hamlet*. Christopher Martin, CSC's artistic director over its entire 16-and-a-half-year history, states that the company is attempting to eliminate its deficit and generally retrench. "We need new income sources, a new board of directors—but we want to keep doing the same kind of work we've been doing right along: classics in the present tense, along with important contemporary plays."

The company is currently looking into co-production arrangements where it would maintain artistic control while obtaining financing from elsewhere.

## 'SUNDAY' WITH SONDHEIM

**A**mong April's New York openings are the newest Stephen Sondheim musical and yet another play by Broadway's current King Midas, Harvey Fierstein.

*Sunday in the Park with George*, created by Sondheim and James Lapine in workshops last summer at Playwrights Horizons, was inspired by Georges Seurat's pointillist painting, "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte." One hundred years pass between its two acts: the first is set in 1884, when Seurat began work on the painting, and the second brings us up to the present. Mandy Patinkin and Bernadette Peters are featured in the production, which takes over the Booth Theatre on April 22, jointly produced by the Shubert Organization, Emanuel Azenberg and Playwrights Horizons. Lapine directs.

Playwright Harvey Fierstein, apparently not quite content with two simultaneous successes (*Torch Song Trilogy* and *La Cage aux Folles*), is shooting for a third, as his *Spookhouse* opens Off Broadway at Playhouse 91 on April 4, under the direction of Eric Concklin. (Concklin was also



George Heinrich

## GIMME SHELLEY

Now more than 160 years old, Mary Shelley's tale of Victor Frankenstein and the misshapen creature into which he breathes life has been fertile ground for playwrights and screenwriters. Yet the full version of Shelley's sprawling, emblematic novel remains unfamiliar to most people. The Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis has set out to change that with its *Frankenstein*, which runs through April 1. Those reared on the lumbering Boris Karloff characterization of the creature might be surprised by the articulate, agile being created by CTC in an attempt to remain true to Shelley's original vision. Above, Victor Frankenstein (Tom Dunn, center) relates his tale to a band of explorers (Michael Welch, George Muschamp and Philip Eaton) who discover him half-mad in the Arctic wilderness. The play was adapted by Thomas W. Olson and directed by John Clark Donahue.



Gerry Goodstein

Bernadette Peters distracts Mandy Patinkin in *Sunday in the Park with George*, the newest Stephen Sondheim/James Lapine musical opening late this month.

responsible for early Off Broadway productions of *Torch Song Trilogy*.) Fierstein has described the play as a black comedy set in Brooklyn, inspired by his own childhood experiences at Coney Island. *Spookhouse* is produced by Terry Allen Kramer and Harry Rigby, and features Anne Meara in the lead role.

## JONES AWARD GOES TO LAAT

**T**he Los Angeles Actors' Theatre and its producing/artistic director Bill Bushnell have been named winners of the 1983 Margo Jones Award. The prize, named for the late Dallas producer who was a pioneer of the regional theatre movement, honors an American or Canadian theatre devoted to the development of new plays and playwrights. LAAT is scheduled to move this year into a new four-theatre performing arts complex in downtown Los Angeles. □