

36 ENTERTAINMENT THE HOME NEWS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1981

Turkish actress embraces U.S. theater

By ANN LEDESMA Home News entertainment writer PRINCETON — The Borjouis is a long way from Carnegie Lake, but actress Shirin Davrin Trainer, hailed as the "Melina Mercouri of Turkey," is happy and completely at home in Princeton.

Theater closeup

additive and resilient that she'd probably be at home anywhere — as long as there was some culture there. The wife of retired Soltis brewery heir Robert Trainer, the actress is currently appearing in the world premiere of Hans Sabli's "House Music" at New York's American Jewish Theatre, part of the 33rd Street YHMA. The show runs through Dec. 29.

Movie times

HILLSBOROUGH Hillsboro Twin Bands 8. SOUND BROOK Brook Theatre, Southern Comfort 9:10, and Death Heat 7:30. CANTREY Jerry Lewis Twin Cinema 1, Striped 7:30. Jerry Lewis Twin Cinema 2, Escape from New York 7:30. DIMMELLEN Durham Theatre, Hillsboro 1, 1, 9, 15, 19, 25. EAST BRUNSWICK Brunswick Square Cinema 1, Excalibur 1:30, 7:30 and Outland 4:55, 9:45. Brunswick Square Cinema 2, Time Bandits 2, 4:50, 7:30, 9:30. Lane's Route 18 Twin 1, Only When I Laugh 7:35, 9:50. Lane's Route 18 Twin 2, Body and Soul 8, 10. Movie City 1, Paternity 7:30, 9:30. Movie City 2, Body Heat 7:10, 9:40. Movie City 3, Southern Comfort 7:20, 9:45. Movie City 4, Haircut 11:15, 9:50. Movie City 5, Prince of the City 7:45. TURKISH Cinema 1, closed for 10 days. Turkish Cinema 2, closed for 10 days. Turnpike Drive-In, closed for 10 days. EDISON Menlo Park Cinema 1, The French Lieutenant's Woman 2, 4:35, 7:20, 9:30. Menlo Park Cinema 2, closed for renovations. Plainfield-Edison 1, closed for renovations. Plainfield-Edison 2, closed for renovations. FRANKLIN Rutgers Cinema 1, Goodbye Emmanuelle 7:30, 9:30. Rutgers Cinema 2, Estabrook 7:15 and Outland 9:45. KYPHOS Strand Theatre (EX), 18:05, 2:30, 7:15, 9:30, 11:55. South In Showy (EX) 1:18, 8:30.

She became known to Princeton audiences in the 1977 McCarter Theatre production of "The Yvonne of Brno." It was during that time that the actress, a strong believer in destiny and chains of events, literally fell in love with Princeton. In the living room of her elegant, Georgian-style home on Mercer Street, she recalls: "I had come here for 'Simone Macbeth' and rented a room. We were living in New York at the time. It was in the fall, and it was so beautiful here, the trees and all the colors. Anyway the director, John Hicks, had come to see the play, and we went to visit his brother, a professor. I remarked that I would love to live here. 'The professor's wife is a realist,' she continues. 'She was at my door the next day. It was my annual wedding anniversary. We came to see this house, and right on the lawn in a plastic bag was the New York Times, and right on the front page was a good review of 'The Yvonne of Brno.' I said, 'This is destiny. This house is meant for us. The beautiful day, the anniversary, the good review on the lawn, it's just had to be.' 'So we sold our New York apartment and came here. But we do keep a small pad,' as you say in New York. 'I had a 600-sq-ft striking with commanding features and a charming historical accent. Mrs. Trainer was raised in Istanbul, part of what she describes as 'a Chekhov household with Dostoevsky personalities.' Seven members of the family are renowned in the visual arts, and the patriarchal grandfather was a general and administrator in the Ottoman Empire. 'Everyone was creative, exciting, colorful,' she recalls. 'I still dream about it, the house and the gardens, the jamaica and fruit trees, the ponds full of little golden fish. There was no need to go anywhere because everything was contained in the home.' Educated at American Girls' College in Istanbul, Mrs. Trainer was preparing the arch-villainess Clytemnestra at the age of 16. Fascinated with the idea of life in the U.S., she moved here and attended Bard College. 'I had planned to study politics and international affairs and become a diplomat, but I found that my major interest was the Columbia (University) Plays. I kept being in their shows and going to theater until it was coming out of my ears and finally I put away the idea of politics and enrolled at Yale Drama School.' Here, she 'saw, read and breathed theater,' and also married. Her play-wright husband the later divorced her. She returned to Turkey and theater life followed, but the theatrical life there was more than rewarding. In a dramatic break with Moslem tradition, she became the first woman to act in, and direct at, Turkey's famed Municipal theaters. 'Those were golden days because international had just arrived,' she says. 'There were five national theaters and 30 private ones. I had to come quite well-known, I directed, and played every role from Lady Macbeth to Dolly Levi, I worked 16 hours a day.'

AP announces new country network NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A live overnight radio program from Nashville will be offered to stations around the country by WSM and Associated Artists, Inc. WSM and AP officials announced the new Music Country Network at a news conference last week. Tom Criticos, senior vice president of programming for WSM, and Roy Steinford, vice president of broadcast services for the AP, said the network will provide music, news and entertainment features for members each night in each time zone. WSM will be the network's flagship station and the center of the entertainment programming will be provided by Opryland Productions, a division of WSM. The news, sports and information segments of the overnight service will be provided by the AP/Radio Network and will be broadcast live from AP studios in Washington, APR, with 1,180 affiliates, is the country's largest single radio network. Music Country Network will be transmitted from headquarters on the West Hill satellite. Stations that receive the signal via the AP satellite dish in their city. Criticos and Steinford said they expect to begin operations in April 1982 with a lineup of 100 stations. 'For many people today, Nashville's music and the culture it represents are the heart of America,' Criticos said. 'We think we're filling a real need for those people as they go about their business in the early morning hours.' Steinford and Criticos stressed that each station will be a member station. 'We think this is one of the great moments in music programming and AP has more than 130 years of experience in news, so together we

much more commercial than those of Turkey. 'Technically, especially on Broadway, American theater can do things others cannot because you get the very best. But in our theaters, 160 seats will be hired under contract as part of a company and they have much more security. 'That isn't always good, since they're not always that anxious to perform. They know they'll get paid, so some of them would just as soon not go on.' In 1964 she obtained a Rockefeller grant to observe theater everywhere, and visited 16 countries, seeing 18 productions in 10 months. 'What got me most excited of all was Joseph Papp's truck theater, where he would take productions into inner city communities where the people never see good theater.' She returned to Turkey and attempted to interest the theatrical powers that be in a similar type of venture. 'But I wasn't able to pull it off.' What she did instead was perform Lady Macbeth in a production still talked about, held on the ramparts of the Rumeli Harbiye Fortunes of the Bosporus and winning critical acclaim throughout Europe. Returning to the U.S., she was listed as a teacher at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon Institute, then acted and directed in California at the Stanford Repertory Company. She took a sabbatical off, touring the country and lecturing on Turkey and its theater, then returning to Carnegie Mellon, combining her lecturing with acting in regional theaters around the U.S. It was while performing at the Millikenville Repertory Theatre that she met Trainer, at the time senior vice president of Soltis. 'I went back to Turkey for a show, and in 1972 he came to Istanbul and proposed. It's ironic our marriage. I'm Turkish, an actress and a Moslem, and he's American and a Jew. We have no common background, yet our marriage is Turkish actress takes on U.S. theater. 'Something that must have been made in heaven — people, books, houses. We have the same manners. I don't mean greatest like holding one's



ARTISTIC FAMILY — Actress Shirin Davrin Trainer stands beneath a portrait of her mother, painter artist Fabehelisa Zeld. Mrs. Trainer currently is appearing in "House Music" at New York's American Jewish Theatre.

chair, or helping with one's coat, but loving. And our heads work together, even though he's a conservative and I'm a liberal. But we have educated each other. He has educated me in economics. I have educated him in the arts. During the first seven years of their marriage the couple lived in houses Mrs. Trainer occupied. I'm a bilingual acting with the dates of association with, being on stage one night and the next night attending a Soltis function and doing the polka with the workers. Trainer returned and decided to re-

to his native New York, where they lived until the McCarter production changed their lives. The residence is a Soltis home, sunny and full of eclectic international decor and Turkish art and objects. Most of the art has been done by members of Mrs. Trainer's family, notably her mother, the painter Fabehelisa Zeld, and her aunt, actor and printmaker Alvy Berg. The delightful ceramics are the work of a cousin, Parya, leading exponent of modern Turkish ceramics.

Advertisement for 'TIME BANDITS' featuring a list of movies and showtimes. Includes titles like 'The French Lieutenant's Woman', 'Only When I Laugh', and 'Body and Soul'.

Advertisement for 'MUSICA SACRA comes to Douglass Sunday' featuring a list of musical performances and showtimes. Includes titles like 'Lobit Coat' and 'Voices and Instruments'.

Advertisement for 'LOEWS RITE 18 TWIN' featuring a list of movies and showtimes. Includes titles like 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' and 'Only When I Laugh'.

Large advertisement for the movie 'Absence of Malice' starring Paul Newman and Sally Field. The ad includes a quote from Sydney Pollack and mentions the film's performance in various theaters.

Advertisement for '90-VOICE CHORUS' featuring a list of musical performances and showtimes. Includes titles like 'Lobit Coat' and 'Voices and Instruments'.

Advertisement for 'LOEWS RITE 18 TWIN' featuring a list of movies and showtimes. Includes titles like 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' and 'Only When I Laugh'.

A grid of small advertisements for various theaters and movies, including titles like 'Midnight Show', 'Excalibur', and 'Arthur'.

A grid of small advertisements for various theaters and movies, including titles like 'Arthur', 'Excalibur', and 'Outland'.

Advertisement for 'BUDDY BODDY' featuring a list of movies and showtimes. Includes titles like 'The French Lieutenant's Woman' and 'Only When I Laugh'.