Channing

Continued from page 21—
sing that song for the chief executi-
vie, who loved it. And so did Pres-
ident Clinton, she added. Tiddy
boom cha!

That was the top of the sand-
wich. In the middle came a deftly
executed monologue concerning
Cecilia Penniman, the fictional star of
"Mississippi Melody," who found
fame fleeting. The way Channing
told this, all the S’s came out as
whistles. Thus the phrase "star of
the silent screen for seven years"
was made to bring a belly yolk, an
outcome that Channing seemingly
achieves at will.

The comedian then passed out
her own Coveted Diamond Awards
to top AIDS volunteers, stripping
huge paste rings from her fingers,
tossing them to the recipients and
cutting the bottom of the sandwich,
her totally boss rendition of "Dia-
monds Are A Girl’s Best Friend."

It was sensuous, and for a finish,
the star of the show smiled her 24-
carat smile and tossed little paste
diamond rings out into the benefit
audience from a trash in her even-
ning purse. This would have
brought them to their feet if they
didn’t have been standing already
on the dance floor in their 1920s out-
fits, applauding wildly.

‘Demon’

Continued from page 21—
surrounding this aspect of the play
is not only pertinent to today’s
environmental concerns, but at
times sounds eerily modern.

But the doctor’s effort to save
the forest is only one part of a
complex web of relationships.

Woodmaner (Mark Harelik), as
he’s called, is secretly in love with
Sonya (Niki Doukas), the daugh-
ter of Aleksander (a superb Dakin
Matthews), a cranky landowner
and retired professor. The profes-
sor is married to Yelena (Lorraine
Toussaint), a beautiful and philo-
osophic woman much younger
than he who is being pursued by
Zhorzh and Fedya (Lawrence
Pressman and Eric Allan Kramer,
both excellent), the first an embit-
tered caretaker of the professor’s
estate, the latter an arrogant but
warmhearted soldier.

These are the central characters
in what at times resembles a won-
derful Russian soap opera, excep-
ting that the mind and understanding
heart behind this opera is Chekh-
ov’s. Each character speaks di-
rectly from his or her impassioned
Russian soul. Although the last act
offers a too-neat wrap-up, the
piece taken as a whole contains
some of Chekhov’s best writing.

Events

TODAY

“At the Center of the Labyrinth:
The Films of Bernardo Bertolucci.”
American Cinematheque series kicks off tonight
with Bertolucci speaking after a
7:15 p.m. screening of “The Grim Reaper”
and runs through Sunday.

“Laughing Hearts That Care.”
Comedy evening to benefit Aid for
AIDS and Homestead Hospice and
Shelter, 8 p.m., Wilshire Ebell
Theatre, Los Angeles. (213) 656-
0795.

“Three Generations of Giant-
tor.” ASIFA-Hollywood presents
evening with series producer-di-
rector-writer Fred Ladd, 7:30 p.m.,
Animation Center, Burbank. (818)
842-8330

SATURDAY

Black Entertainment and
Sports Lawyers Assn. midyear
conference, 8:30 a.m.-8 p.m.,
Sony Pictures Entertainment Studio
Plaza, Burbank. (818) 547-2233

Scriptwriters Network meet-
ing with entertainment attorney
Paul Levine discussing business
aspects of being a Hollywood writ-
er, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Building 476,
Universal Studios. (213) 848-9477

SUNDAY

Comedians Against AIDS.
Performers include Paul Reiser,
Carol Leifer and Dom Irrera in bene-
fit for Project Angel Food, the Laugh
Factory, Hollywood. (213) 656-
1336

“Cops and Robbers” benefit
premiere with proceeds to the
Center for Environmental Educa-
tion. Screenings 11 a.m. and 2
p.m., outdoor party noon-3 p.m.,
Sony Pictures Studios, Culver
City. (310) 454-4585

Los Angeles Drama Critics Cir-
cle Awards. 25th annual event,
Sportsmen’s Lodge, Studio City.
“A Re-creation of the Tonight
Show.” Steve Allen stars with
guests Louie Nye and Bill Dana,
2:15 p.m., San Gabriel Civic Audi-
torium. (213) 481-3232

Jimmy Stewart Relay Mar-
athon, hosted by Stewart and Rob-
ert Wagner. Benefits St. John’s
Child Study Center, 8 a.m.,
Griffith Park. (310) 829-8966

Video Game and New Tech-
ology Conference sponsored by
the Video Software Dealers Assn.,
through Monday, Hyatt Regency
O’Hare, Chicago. (818) 889-7148

Kalish

Continued from page 21—
also served as the SPE liaison
for benefit premiers for Sony
pictures, for the Sony Family
Center and Sony Pictures Studios
tours.

Kalish joined SPE in 1989 after
serving for six years with the
Guber Peters Entertainment
Co.

Mail call

The Hollywood Reporter wel-
comes letters to the editor. The
writer’s name and phone number
must be included. The letters
should be sent to 5055 Wilshire
Blvd., 6th Floor, Los Angeles, CA
90036.