HERBERT MARSHALL RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

The Center for Soviet and East European Studies Advisory Committee has proposed the planning and execution of an exhibition of the life and work of Professor Herbert Marshall tentatively entitled:

HERBERT MARSHALL—Renaissance Man
50 YEARS RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

to be held in the lounge of the Home Economics Building on South University Avenue, opening on April 14th, and ending April 30th, 1977.

Dr. Warren Brandt, President of SIU will preside. H. E. Kewal Singh, the Indian Ambassador; Congressmen Melvyn Price and Paul Simon, Mr. Clement Stone Sr. have already accepted invitations to be distinguished visitors on the platform.

This will include the following:
1) An exhibit on screens, stands and pedestals of Marshall's activities in authorship, translation, designing, producing, directing and teaching by actual books, articles, newspaper clippings, photographs, designs, caricatures, sculptures, paintings, etc. Exhibition designed by Mr. J. Sadowsky, senior in the Design Department.

2) Two evenings devoted to showing Marshall's films:
   April 18th—8 P.M. at the Student Auditorium, Student Center
   b. Mr. Pastry Makes the Laundry—A short slapstick comedy with one of England's leading slapstick comedians.
   April 25th—8 P.M. at the Morris Library Auditorium
   b. Tourist Gems of Madhya Pradesh—a color short made by Marshall for the Government of India Tourist Promotion Campaign, including his visits to the greatest architectural and cultural remains of India.

3) April 22—9 P.M. at the Beth Jacob Temple. "In Memory of Soviet Jews I have known" by Herbert Marshall, with readings from Soviet Yiddish poets he has translated, together with an exhibition of Soviet Jewish Artists paintings and lithographs.

4) April 25th at 4 P.M.—BLACK AMERICAN STUDIES under the direction of Dr. Walter Robinson will open a room housing the HERBERT MARSHALL COLLECTION of IRA ALDRIDGE and PAUL ROBESON. These unique archives of two of the greatest Black actors and singers Marshall is donating to SIU on the occasion of his Retrospective Exhibition. The inauguration will be by the veteran Black actor, Mr. Fred O'Neal, Chairman of the Actors Equity Association of USA.

5) Television: Studying with Eisenstein. A kinoscope of the BBC program MONITOR, introduced by Huw Weldon (later head of the BBC).

6) A Special Festschrift edited by Dr. Byron Raizis, with contributions by writers, artists, directors, statesmen and others to honor the 50 years activity of Marshall.

7) SIU Symphony and Dr. Robert Berg (October 1977)


THE EPITAPH OF THE SCULPTOR ON THE STONE

by Joseph Noneshvili
(Tbilisi, Georgian S.S.R.)

(Translated by Herbert Marshall FROM THE GEORGIAN in collaboration with the author.)

AUTHOR'S ORIGINAL GEORGIAN TEXT:

The epitaph of the sculptor on the stone,

შექრებული შექრებული შექრებული, რომელიც არიან რომელიც არიან რომელიც.

შპიცი დააჭარბა არა დააჭარბა არა დააჭარბა.

თანამედროვე მოქალაქე უამრავია ხშირი, თანამედროვე მოქალაქე უამრავია ხშირი, თანამედროვე მოქალაქე უამრავია ხშირი.

შექრებული შექრებული შექრებული.

თეთრი ქალაქი დააჭარბა მეთეთრი ქალაქი, თეთრი ქალაქი დააჭარბა მეთეთრი ქალაქი.

შექრებული შექრებული შექრებული.

თეთრი ქალაქი დააჭარბა მეთეთრი ქალაქი, თეთრი ქალაქი დააჭარბა მეთეთრი ქალაქი.

თეთრი ქალაქი დააჭარბა მეთეთრი ქალაქი.
I carved the ornaments of Kashuyetty,*
from my excited spirit wrought,
before me were unveiled the heaven’s poetics,
the stones with moss unveiled, unlike my thoughts,
then in them hearts were burning like my own.
The frills of fern or twining branch of vine,
the convoluting ivy’s careful climb
I traced so delicately upon the stone
that my breath caused to rustle stony leaves—
and when God’s gaze fell upon the temple frieze
and his angels praised my good right hand,
I was a man transformed into a god,
I was a god transformed into a man.
But, stranger, when the flick’ring candle flame
like a torch lights up your mournful face,
forever I’ll be grateful for your prayers,
that heaven will forgive my sinful name.
For his own sin each sinner must atone—
my sin burdens like a heavy load—
when, upon the rosy Boniss stone,
I carved the image of the Mother of God,
I saw before me—how I do not know—
my own beloved, arrow in her bow.
Instead of Virgin Mary’s eyes, I traced
the eyes of an earthly woman’s face.
I understand not how it took place,
ornaments I carved like her plaited braids.
Both in heaven and earth I feel
all is seen by the All-Seeing One
and the anger of His frown reveals
my judgement’s heavy hour will come.
So, stranger, when the flickering candle flame
like a torch lights up your mournful face,
forever I’ll be grateful for your prayers,
that heaven will forgive my sinful name.

* One of the famous ancient churches of Tbilisi, Georgia.
See also a poem by Yevushenki on the same church.  HM

BORIS PASTERNAK
Translated from the Russian by Herbert Marshall.
(Three fragments about Alexander Blok)
Who is to live and be lauded,
who is to be dead and abused,
is known alone to our toadies,
those with influence to use.
No one would know, with certainty,
should Pushkin be honoured or not,
without their Doctoral dissertations
on everything shedding their light.
But Blok, thank God, is something besides
happily, quite another one.
He didn’t descend on us from Sinai,
nor adopt us as his sons.
Honoured not by a programme,
and eternal, outside school and rote,
he didn’t come to us hand-stamped
and was never thrust down our throat.

A QUATRAIN ALLEGEDLY REFERRING TO STALIN
Poetry Translations by Herbert Marshall
(From the Russian)
1. OSIP MANDELSTAM.*
Paul Robeson's Obituary: Aftermath Part II

(See Bulletins No. 17 & 18)

Paul Robeson, in his letter said, inter alia, "The fact is my father would not see you for the past sixteen years (i.e. from 1960 HM) because he did not wish to have any contact with you. Furthermore the letters from Paul Robeson that appears in your article are undated." As if it mattered. However if any more proof were needed as to the relationship between Paul and Essie and myself, in their last years in England, here are extracts from two letters, dated 20th September 1960. They are to Boris Polevoy, famous Soviet writer in the Union of Soviet Writers, who were then my hosts inviting me to Moscow. It will be seen they clearly show the intention of both Paul and Essie to support my idea of a film on my book IRA ALDRIDGE and Paul writes: "and I hope to working with him (Marshall) again in the coming year (i.e. 1961 HM)"

Dear Boris—

You must know who Herbert Marshall is. A fine Director of Drama, Cinema, and Television: a student of Sergei's (Eisenstein) whom Sergei deeply respected: the translator (into amazing truthful and beautiful English of Mayakovsky). So please see him and help him. I think Victor knows him. Certainly he knows that Marshall directed me years ago at the Worker's Unity Theatre in London. And I hope to be working with him again in the coming year.

He has written the definitive biography of the great Negro tragedian, Ira Aldridge, favorite in the Russia of Schevchenko, Davidoff etc.

Hope to see you in December. On my way to Australia in October for six to eight weeks. Love to the family and you.

(signed in Russian: Pavel Vasilievich)

Paul C. Robeson

This letter is particularly noteworthy as it is well known that Paul hardly ever wrote a personal letter himself, Essie
always did it for him. In this I remember he wanted to impress on all and sundry that he was backing me to the hilt.

Following negotiations with the Soviet film authorities I was commissioned to write a scenario for Leningrad Film Studios which I did, and it was included in their plan of production. Paul was to be its commentator, as he was now too old to play the whole gamma of Aldridge's life.

Here is a report in the Soviet newspaper SMENA (Leningrad) 28th December 1960. It is headed "PAUL ROBESON — IRA ALDRIDGE."

Поль Робсон —
Айра Олдридж

Скоро образ Айры Олдридж будет найден на экранах кинотеатров в новом фильме, сценарий для которого написал известный английский кино-режиссер и сценарист Герберт Маршалл. Роль Айры Олдридж в этой картине предназначена для Поля Робсона, который уже дал согласие на съемки.

Об этом мы узнали от Герберта Маршалла, который нескольким дням назад провел в Ленинграде. Его привлекла идея обнять фильмом. Об этом мы узнали от Герберта Маршалла, который нескольким дням назад провел в Ленинграде. Его привлекла идея обнять фильмом.

But like journalists everywhere one fact went awry. Paul was not to act Aldridge but commentate. Here is part translation: "Soon the image of Ira Aldridge will appear on the screen in a new film, the scenario of which is being written by the well-known English film director and scenarist Herbert Marshall. The role of Ira Aldridge in this film is destined for Paul Robeson, who has already given his consent to be filmed."

But alas, with the downfall of Khrushchev and the return of neo-Stalinism this whole plan was liquidated.

And meanwhile Paul collapsed. Here is an extract from a letter to me from Essie about this. It is dated Feb. 9, 1962. Proving Robeson Jnr once again as misrepresenting.

Copies of the actual letters are available for bona fide researchers in my archives of IRA ALDRIDGE and PAUL ROBESON, which I am donating to my University's Black American Center, as part of the celebration of my FIFTY YEARS work.

Furthermore, here is written evidence from Essie of the high regard Paul paid to our film THE PROUD VALLEY (And that was September 1960!) as "the only film which Paul ever made that he is proud of."

September 20, 1960

Dear Boris:

Hi there!! . . . Herbert Marshall is here, and he and Paul have just been going over his book, IRA ALDRIDGE, the Negro Tragedian, by Herbert Marshall and Mildred Stock. It has been read and approved for publication in Moscow by the ALL UNION THEATRICAL SOCIETY.

Marshall you will remember as the English translator of Mayakovsky. He is also a theatre and film producer and director, and of course is very anxious to have his book done as a film. We have already talked to Victor Gorokhov about this, and Victor had a very fine idea of Paul appearing as research man and commentator on Aldridge's life.

Marshall directed Paul in a play at the UNITY (a progressive) Theatre in London years ago, and also wrote and produced PROUD VALLEY, the only film which Paul has ever made that he is proud of . . . . Greetings and love to you all, from us both.

Sincerely,

Elanda

Boris Polevoi
45 Connaught Square, London W2

February 9, 1962

Dear Bert:

Paul is back in the Nursing Home, and continues to improve, but very very slowly.

I have been across the enclosed when trying to clean up the mail, and have no idea that it is all about. When you get time, will you have a look at it, and if it is anything important or interesting, will you use it, or do whatever you think best about it, and eventually let me know? If I have to thank anybody for it, or acknowledge it, will you let me know, IN ENGLISH, please and thank-you.

Hope you and Freda keep well. And how is the house coming along? And, of course, the work. I told Claudia about the Aldridge Group, and she was very much interested. I do so hope something comes of it.

Greetings, sincerely,

On that I am proud to rest my case.

CENTER FOR SOVIET & EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES
College of Communications and Fine Arts
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Carbondale, Illinois 62901
U.S.A.